

TUC leaders to seek flexible pay formula

The possibility of a further year of pay restraint will be discussed tomorrow at a meeting of the TUC economic committee. Most members are understood to favour a deal with the Government despite union pressures for big pay rises, but they know that to carry their members any formula must be more flexible than the present phase.

Union view hardening against phase three

By Tim Jones
Labour Reporter

The TUC economic committee will meet tomorrow for the first time since the Budget to discuss the possibility of a further year of pay restraint in cooperation with the Government. The Chancellor's proposals of more tax cuts if wage demands are held back will be examined in detail by the union leaders, who face growing discontent among rank-and-file members over falling living standards.

Although Mr Len Murray, the TUC general secretary, has indicated that the Budget provided a basis for discussion, the union leaders know that to carry their members any agreement must be far more flexible than the present policy.

Pressure for more money is building up from all sides of industry and some Whitehall unions have indicated that they will be seeking big pay rises in the next round.

A survey by the Society of Civil and Public Servants shows that its members would require increases of between 35 and 32 per cent to restore their real incomes to the level of April, 1975.

Although the union is not likely to seek rises of that order, its members are bound to demand amounts that will go some way to restoring lost ground. Members of the biggest Whitehall union, the Civil and Public Services Association, are to be urged by their executive to reject further voluntary pay restraint and generally motions, for discussion at all union conferences, show a hardening of attitude against a phase three.

In spite of those pressures, most members of the economic committee favour another deal but they know that it must be "credible" to their members.

Much of the discussion to-morrow is likely to centre on a "orderly" return to free collective bargaining within a further period of voluntary agreement with the Government. There are likely to be strong calls for government action to control prices as part of any deal.

The committee is unlikely to give serious consideration to another flat-rate incomes policy, but some members will demand the institution of a TUC minimum wage level.

An important part of the discussions might be a demand for self-financing incentive schemes to be excluded from any agreement. That would be coupled with far more freedom for union representatives at plant level to negotiate on their priorities, such as differentials or consolidation of the phase one and two supplementary into basic pay.

Some union leaders believe that failure to achieve another round would lead to an inflationary cycle that would bring down the Government and harm the trade union movement.

Mr Henry will face his first challenge of persuading rank-and-file members to concede a third phase when he addresses 1,000 delegates at the annual conference of the Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers later this month.

Although the union is traditionally moderate, its general secretary, Lord Allen, of Fallowfield, moved the resolution accepted by last year's TUC for a planned return to collective bargaining from next August as a more flexible form of pay policy.

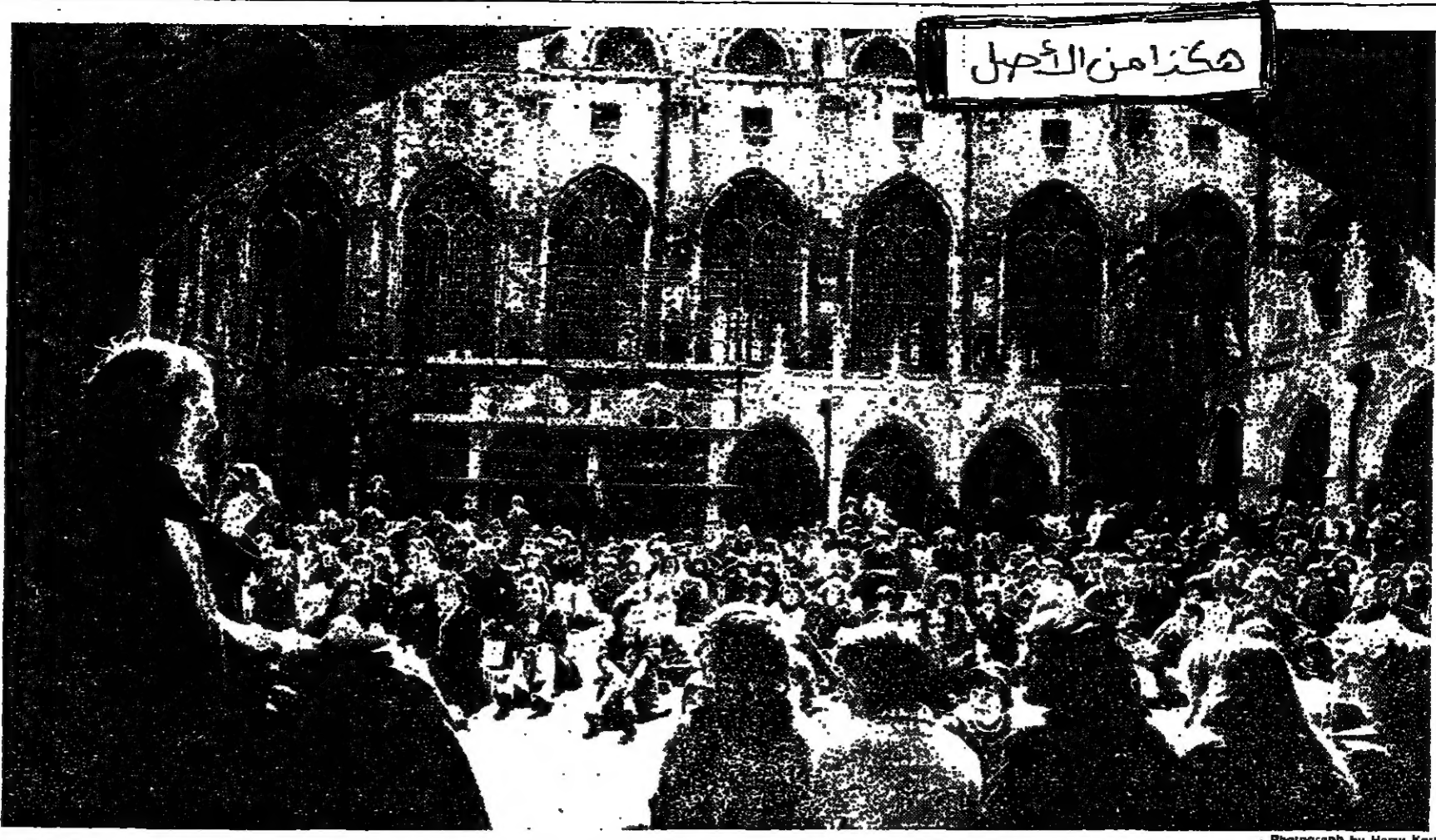
The day after hearing Mr Healey the delegates will discuss their action on pay. The view they take of Mr Healey's address is bound to affect the stand the union takes in the preparation behind the scenes for the talks.

Most of the detailed bargaining over the coming weeks will take place between the Chancellor and senior members of the economic committee. Both sides regard the discussions as private and will not publicise their decisions.

The National Union of Teachers, at its annual conference at Eastbourne, decided yesterday not to dissociate itself, as had been proposed, from the social contract, and not to fight for its abandonment by the TUC (our Education Correspondent writes).

Instead, it adopted a memorandum from its executive supporting a phase three on pay and urging a planned return to free collective bargaining. But its general secretary, Mr Fred Jarvis, said later that it would not support phase three "no matter what". It would want to maintain teachers' living standards.

Mrs Williams accused, page 2



The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Coggan, holding a lunchtime question-and-answer session with young people in the cathedral cloisters yesterday as part of the Easter Youth Pilgrimage.

Victims of gunman flown home

A North Yemen presidential aircraft left Heathrow airport, yesterday with the bodies of the three North Yemenis shot dead in London on Sunday. They were: Al-Qadi Abdullah al-Hajri, a former prime minister, his wife, Fatimah, and Abdullah Ali al-Hammami, minister plenipotentiary at the London embassy.

A week's mourning has been declared in North Yemen.

Scotland Yard last night issued a more detailed description and photograph of the man wanted in connection with the killing.

The gunman, described as of Arab appearance, was said to be between 23 and 26, of slim, athletic build, with a moustache and black, greasy hair and sideburns. He was wearing a black trench coat, black flared trousers and a white shirt with a dark tie.

A theory that he was a professional gunman, among police lines of inquiry. A link with the international terrorist "Carlos" is not discounted.

A Photofit picture of a man wanted for interview. Another photograph, page 2.

Dr Owen's frank talks at first stop in Africa

From Charles Harrison
Nairobi, April 11

Dr David Owen, the Foreign Secretary, today outlined his ideas on a Rhodesian settlement to President Nyerere of Tanzania and Mr Robert Mugabe, one of the leaders of the Rhodesian Patriotic Front, when he arrived in Dar es Salaam, the first stop on his African tour.

A British official said Dr Owen had been "very frank and direct" with the Rhodesian nationalists, who during the meeting had modified what at first had been a "very sceptical" attitude.

Dr Owen told reporters he was bringing ideas on how to solve the Rhodesia problem, not a blueprint for a solution. Mr Cyrus Vance, the United States Secretary of State, has been consulted about them.

"You'll only achieve a settlement by listening to people and taking account of their views and their experiences", Dr Owen said.

Afterwards, the Patriotic Front said in a statement: "The Patriotic Front remains of the firm opinion that the Zimbabwe (Rhodesian) conflict can be resolved only in the battlefield."

Nicholas Ashford writes from Johannesburg: Mr Ian Smith, the Rhodesian Prime Minister, said today that too much should not be expected from the talks which he is due to hold on Wednesday with Dr Owen.

Speaking in Cape Town after a holiday cruise, he said that not only was Dr Owen new to his job, but he had no practical experience of the Rhodesian problem.

"If people are not prepared to take the most elementary steps of examining the problem where the problem lies, I must have a great deal to say to come out of these talks."

Dr Owen will not be visiting Rhodesia during his current tour of southern Africa. He is due in Cape Town from Mozambique tomorrow night and will see both Mr Smith and Mr Vorster, the South African Prime Minister, the following day.

Asked if he had any proposals to put to Dr Owen, Mr Smith said his Government would hold its hand until it had established whether Britain intended to scrap the Anglo-American agreement negotiated by Dr Henry Kissinger, the former United States Secretary of State, or whether there was a possibility of going back to this agreement.

The South African Government seems to be awaiting Dr Owen's arrival, with caution. Although ministers have been briefed by some of Dr Owen's recent remarks, the Government nevertheless remains anxious to see an acceptable settlement reached.

Michael Knipe writes from Salisbury: Mr Smith is expected to press upon Dr Owen the feasibility of a referendum among black Rhodesians to establish who they regard as their leader. He is also expected to urge Dr Owen to visit Salisbury to assess the political and racial climate at first hand.

There has been no sign from the Rhodesian Government that Mr Smith is particularly impressed by Dr Owen's reported plan for attention to be centred on the drafting of a new constitution before detailed talks begin on the setting up of an interim government.

Photograph, page 4

Russian fined £10,000 for fishing offence

From Our Correspondent
Lerwick

The skipper of a Russian trawler was fined £10,000, with the alternative of 90 days' imprisonment, at Lerwick Sheriff Court yesterday. His gear and catch, valued at £4,000, were confiscated and he was detained in custody until the fine was paid.

Onatoly Kremensky, skipper of the trawler Hovan, who admitted fishing without a licence 33 miles inside the British 200-mile limit north-east of Shetland, was given a restricted penalty. Sheriff A. A. Macdonald accepted his explanation that he had received a radio message from the fishery master of the accompanying mother ship telling him he was authorized to take the place of one of the 40 Russian boats that have been licensed to fish within the limit.

Mr Donald McLeay, procurator fiscal, said the Hovan was sighted by HMS Jersey with its gear in the water. Mr Kremensky told the British officers he was authorized to fish in place of a Russian vessel which had a licence, but substitution in that manner was not permitted.

Mr John Matthew, for the skipper, said he was aware of the limitation on the number of Russian boats permitted to fish, but not of the licensing procedure. Mr Matthew produced a radio message from the mother ship which stated that the Hovan was authorized to fish "in the English economic zone".

The new order came into effect on April 1, since when, Mr Matthew said, the skipper had not been back to his home port. The maximum fine for illegal fishing is £50,000 on summary conviction.

Ship arrested, page 4

Decision today on return to work at Heathrow

By Our Labour Reporter

British Airways yesterday operated more than half its usual Bank holiday flights to Europe from Heathrow airport, London, in spite of continued industrial action by maintenance engineers.

Shop stewards are to meet today to decide whether to discuss a possible inquiry into their grievances. Mr Keith Harris, one of the engineering workers' leaders, had indicated he would welcome an inquiry. The airline has been able to operate a reduced service after an agreement with 16 of the 17 unions to allow management engineers to check aircraft.

Yesterday, the airline said it had operated 55 European flights and expected a similar number to leave today for most European destinations. Long-haul flights were operating almost normally.

Quickest Easter: The Royal Automobile Club said yesterday that this Easter had been the quietest on the roads for at least a decade (the Press Association reports).

Family tree specialists beginning to branch out

By Philip Howard

The gardener Adam and his wife smile at the claims of long descent. But they smile alone even in our generation that has abandoned the hereditary principle as a method of selecting people, except for the monarchy and membership of the certain exclusive clubs. Pedigree-hunting is increasingly big business.

Debreit's, publisher of the Peerage and Baronage, has just opened an office in Winchester (appropriately, in the street called Parchment) to track down pedigrees for ardent ancestor-hunters, especially Americans. For an initial fee of £100, the professional searcher Mr Hugh Peckert, will climb as far as he can for the money up a client's family tree.

Debreit's has recently been bought from the International Publishing Company by an independent company from in order to market its publications more fiercely to satisfy the modern lust for ancestor worship. The new owners have already turned last year's loss of £3,000 into a profit this year, and are expecting in the coming financial year a turnover of £200,000, most of it from tracing pedigrees.

The firm gets its name from a Piccadilly bookseller, John Debreit, the son of a French émigré, who gave his name to the guide to the peerage he had taken over in 1802. Debreit's was the Whig bookshop. A few doors away in Piccadilly, Stockdale's was Tory bookshop with its own rival guide to the peerage. In those days one of the many guides to the peerage, falling conveniently open at the most interesting page, was an essential piece of furniture in any self-respecting country-house. As John Austen's novels make mischievously clear, intimate knowledge of the ramifications of the peerage (and, better still, genealogical connexion with it) was an essential passport into polite society.

Mr John Montague-Smith, editor of Debreit's, judges that the modern interest in pedigree is no longer snobbish, but is evidence of a general interest in history, and a particular interest in finding one's own roots.

He says: "In the old days the interest was largely snobbish. People wanted to discover their connexion to noble families or their right to coats of arms. If the researcher found a skeleton in the cupboard, he kept the door firmly closed, because his client did not want to know. Sometimes the client actually instructed him not to discover any vulgar roots.

Today, interest in ancestry is disinterested. Americans and our other clients, many of them young, are saying: 'Here I am. This is my surname. Who am I? How did I get here?'

"They are just as interested in their mother's mother as in the male line. That is why the cartwheel genealogy, showing all a person's ancestors centred on him or her, are becoming popular. It is a search for identity."

Others in the ancestor-hunting business include the College of Arms, a department of the royal household founded in 1483. The heralds and pursuivants and their assistants will trace a family tree back for a fee, but with no guarantees of accuracy.

Continued on page 2, col 1

DC9 pilot 'flew unclear into Trident's path'

From Desha Trevisan
Zagreb, April 11

Mr Gradimir Tasic, principal defendant in the trial of eight Yugoslav air traffic controllers charged with causing the worst collision in civil aviation history, said in court today that the fatal errors were committed by the controllers of the middle sector and by the pilot of the Yugoslav DC9 involved.

A total of 176 people were killed in the disaster in which the Yugoslav aircraft collided in clear skies near Zagreb with a British Airways Trident flying from London to Istanbul at an altitude of 33,000 feet with 54 passengers and nine crew members on board.

The air space over Zagreb is divided into three sectors—lower, middle and upper—and, before an aircraft is allowed to pass from one level to another, clearance must be obtained.

Mr Tasic, who at the time of the disaster was in charge of the upper sector, said when the trial opened today that he never gave clearance for the Yugoslav aircraft to climb above 31,000 feet.

Mr Tasic today described the situation in the upper sector of the control room, where single-handed he was handling 11 aircraft because his assistant Mr Tivko had been ill.

Mr Tasic said he did not wish to defend himself but would speak the truth as the truth spoke for him.

The Trident, he said, was cruising at an altitude of 33,000 feet. At the same time the DC9, flying on a Split en route to Cologne, had asked for clearance to climb to a higher altitude.

At that time, Mr Tasic said, he was talking to several aircraft and making telephone calls to the Belgrade control centre which under normal circumstances would have been handled by his assistant.

When he realized that the DC9 had climbed to his sector without his clearance, he asked for the altitude and warned the Yugoslav pilot that a British Trident was in front of him, coming from left to right. Mr Tasic said the Yugoslav pilot agreed to stay at a safe altitude, but this, it seems, was approaching fatally close to the altitude of the Trident.

However, Mr Tasic said that on his radar screen the altitude of the Trident was 33,500ft. At this point there was still time to avoid disaster, and he was hoping that the Yugoslav pilot would spot the British aircraft if he was below it.

He then saw the picture on the screen of two aircraft converging and merging into one.

But as immediately after they separated again, he felt the catastrophe was averted and that they were each continuing to their destinations. It was only when the aircraft disappeared from the screen that he realized what must have occurred.

After listening to the tape of the control tower, the inquiry commission had noted that, although he saw the crisis approaching, Mr Tasic had gone on talking to the Yugoslav pilot without betraying any anxiety. The presiding judge asked today why his voice was calm, and Mr Tasic replied that he was obeying instructions since coast controllers were expected not to panic.

The eight controllers are charged with negligence and failure to obey instructions, coming late to work and failure to adhere to the standard terminology in the English language.

'Vietnam' fears over Paris arms links with Zaire

From Paul Martin
Paris, April 11

Fears that France is deeply involved in the conflict between rebel forces and the Zaire Government increased today with the disclosure that a French military team has been in Zaire for some time. The group arrived before France decided to airlift a Moroccan expeditionary force to President Mobutu's aid.

The French experts, whose role has evoked comparisons with Vietnam in some quarters, are said to be engaged in a crash programme to train the Zaire armed forces in the use of new French weapons.

From the moment that it was made known at the weekend that France was providing air transport for Moroccan men and arms, it has been emphasized here that no French military personnel would be involved in the Zaire fighting. It was made clear today that the French experts, who have been reinforced recently, were only on a training mission.

Nevertheless fears of a deeper involvement remain, particularly as it was disclosed that 170 French airmen are taking part in the Rabat-Kinshasa air-lift by 10 French Air Force Transall C160s and a DC8 transport which began on Saturday.

The initial reaction to the operation has been surprisingly

Continued on page 4, col 1

Mr Rabin fined £1,000 for currency offence

Mr Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli Prime Minister, was fined 15,000 Israeli pounds (£1,000) in Tel Aviv for holding an illegal bank account in the United States. His wife will have to stand trial for having actually operated the account. Mr Rabin has announced his resignation over the incident but it was announced that he is legally bound to stay in office until after next month's elections.

Page 4

British mothers flock back to work

More British women go back to work after having their children than in any other EEC country, according to a survey of labour forces, conducted in 1975 but not yet published, by the Statistical Office of the European Communities. It shows that about two thirds of British women in their forties and early fifties are economically active.

Page 2

Mrs Thatcher visits tense Chinese city

Mrs Margaret Thatcher yesterday visited Hangchow, an industrial city in east China, where some political tension seems to persist after repeated outbreaks of unrest. Officials denied that there had been any violence, but refused to allow British reporters in Mrs Thatcher's party to read wall posters or copies of the local newspaper.

Page 4

Ovation for Mr Bevan

Mr Andrew ("Andy") Bevan, youth officer of the Labour Party, was given an ovation by Young Socialists in conference at Blackpool. He said the alternatives ahead were either socialism or barbarism. A motion was passed demanding the average industrial wage for MPs.

Page 3

UDA man accused

A member of the Ulster Defence Association, the "loyalist" paramilitary group, has been charged with causing the weekend fire-bomb attacks on shops in Dublin.

Page 2

Marcellus: Mr Nigel Moores, son of the managing director of Littlewoods Pools, has been killed in a car crash. A woman passenger also died.

Beirut: Guerrillas in Lebanon ignore ceasefire call and fighting intensifies.

Poland: Exiled intellectuals claim that they have been traduced by a forged letter circulated in the West.

Challenge over pupil

A Cheshire family have won their battle to send their son aged 12 to a grammar school attended by two of his brothers. Mrs Williams, Secretary of State for Education, refused to uphold the local education committee's decision to send him to a comprehensive school.

Page 2

Spain's 'grave error'

Many Spanish political leaders have welcomed Madrid's decision to legalize the Communist Party after nearly 40 years. There were some voices of dissent, however. Senator Manuel Fraga Iribarne, former Minister of the Interior and leader of the centre-right Popular Alliance described the decision as "a grave political error and a juridical farce".

Page 3

50 Gold
Prize Medals

50 Gold
Prize Medals

Dewar's

FINE SCOTCH WHISKY

"White Label"

Smooth

all round.

Continued on page 4, col 1

Sport, pages 6, 7 and 8

Football: Ipswich take one-point lead as Liverpool draw at Stoke; Rugby Union: Swansea and Barbarians announce tour; Racing: Prospects and programmes for five meetings; Motor Rally: Ford again win Kenya event

Letter: On the effect of US policy on nuclear powers schemes, from Mr Richard Knox; A Liberal Labour electoral pact, from Lord Beaumont of Whitley; expansion plan for Heathrow, from Mrs June Robinson and others

Leading article: Zaire: Israel Labour Party; Spanish Communist Party

Features, pages 5 and 12

Michael Leigh and Johnson Wilhelm Schick: Why the alarm bells are ringing over an ever-larger EEC; Victor Anstey on after Mrs Gandhi: will laughter come back to India? Bernard Levin: Scaring all the

hirdies with my magic wand; Lord Crowthor-Hunt on devolution

Diary, page 12

Alex Haley, author of the best-seller Roots, denounces "opportunistic" allegations that it is not authentic

Arts, page 9

William Mann on Il trovatore at Salzburg Easter Festival; John Percival on ballet in the Rhineland; Stanley Sadie on the English Chamber Orchestra

Obituary, page 14

Sir Robert Trevelock, Miss Karen Kratohvil, Dr C. J. Smithells

Business News, pages 15-19

Financial Editor: Defusing the gift market; radical thinking on investment, inflation accounting and how the debate has ground to a halt

Business Features: Roger Welby looks at the oil companies' efforts to keep and win custom at the petrol pumps

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HOME NEWS

Socialism or barbarism
The only choice,
Mr Andrew Bevan says

Young Socialists gave an account to Mr Andrew Bevan, the Labour youth officer, when he held his first report at a conference in Blackpool today. Mr Bevan, aged 24, a former chairman of the young Socialists, was appointed youth officer despite the opposition of some Labour MPs and agents. Mr Bevan told the conference that civilization would be destroyed by the capitalist system as allowed to continue for the next decade or two.

"Historically speaking, the alternatives ahead of us are socialism or barbarism, socialism or the continuation of the present state of mind itself," he said. "The responsibility fell on the shoulders of the young generation of the Labour movement."

The Young Liberals were a target for criticism by delegates. Mr Nicholas ("Nick") Bradley, a national committee member, said: "The spectacle of Young Liberals smoking cannabis at their conference shows the middle-class degeneracy of that organization."

Delegates passed a resolution demanding that all MPs receive only the average industrial wage plus necessary expenses, any surplus or other earnings to go to party funds. Mr

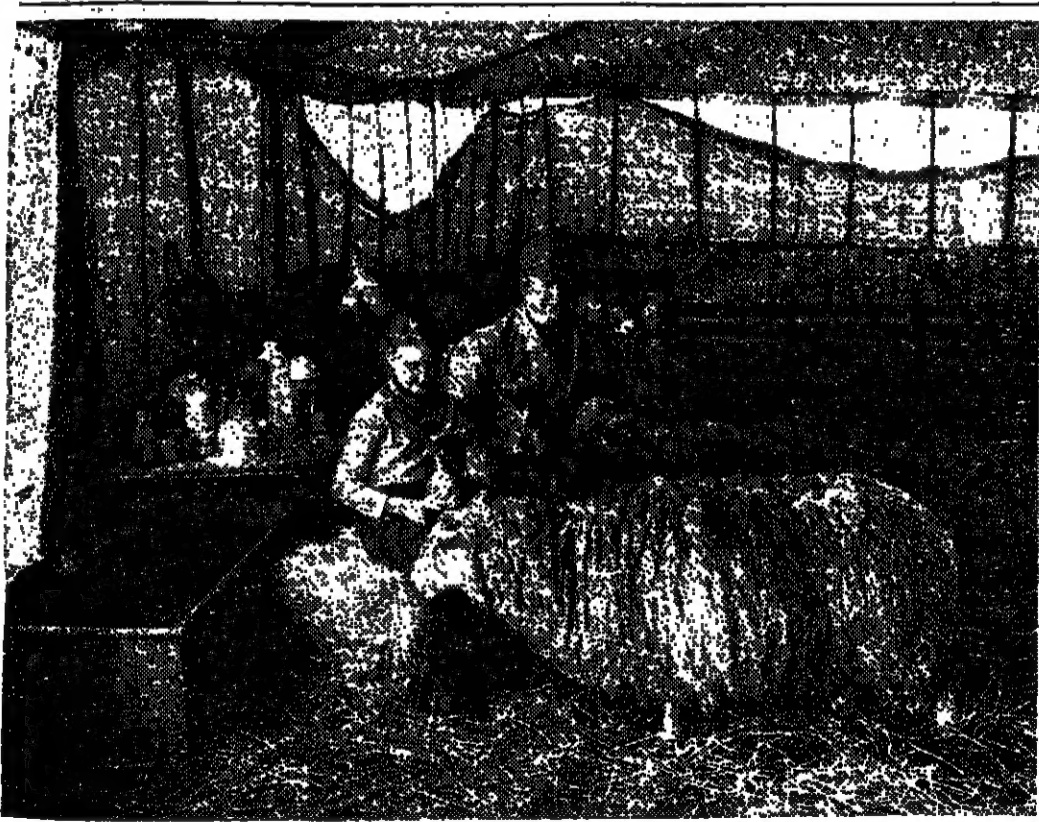
Young Liberals alarmed at
MPs' handling of pact

The Liberal Party's 13 MPs were criticized yesterday at the annual conference of the Young Liberals at Weston-super-Mare, which expressed alarm over the Parliamentary Liberal Party's handling of the Liberal-Labour pact.

Delegates said the MPs were working on the basis of moderation and of stopping socialism instead of using the pact to promote Liberal policies.

A motion, passed by a large majority, called for the Liberal MPs to pursue Liberal policies, to seek the advice of the elected policy bodies of the party, and to attack the Labour Government for its "conservatism."

Moving the motion, Miss Melanie Winterbottom, from Ealing, London, press officer of the South East of England Liberal Federation, said: "We should call upon the parliamentary party to rethink their attitude and to consult the party more." She said the Young Liberals should "pester" the parliamentary party and give advice.



Under canvas: Mr Brian Watchorn, a Nottinghamshire farmer, with his daughter in a marquee, he has set up for ewes giving birth on his farm at Wileburn, near Newark. So far about 200 of

Civil servants are shown 'new' Merseyside

A group of civil servants, representing some of those whom the Government wants to move from Whitehall, were taken recently on a coach tour around Liverpool and Merseyside, one of the areas chosen for dispersal. According to Mr Nigel Green, chief public relations officer of Merseyside Metropolitan Council, who organized the trip, nearly all the coach party were impressed and surprised at what they saw.

They found that their image of Liverpool and what they expected to see was generally very different from what they saw. Mr Green is intrigued by the way impressions of towns and regions are formed. In his earlier days he came across similar aspects of the gulf between image and reality when he was involved in persuading people to move out of inner Liverpool for the new and expanding towns in the hinterland.

The coach trip, which Mr Green insists was not a selectively planned tour, started off in Liverpool, went north through Formby to Southport, then south under the Mersey into Birkenhead and the Wirral. Having arrived by train through the typically depressed-looking route that characterizes almost every city approach, the men from the Ministry looked glum.

Their image had already been confirmed: Liverpool was a drab, dirty and uninviting place. But as they proceeded towards Southport, eyebrows started to rise. The countryside was beautiful, Formby prosperous looking, and Southport

Regional report

Robert Parker
Liverpool

as pleasant a seaside resort as you could find. In Liverpool they saw handsome avenues, superb open parks such as Sefton, with its large Victorian merchants' houses, pleasant suburbs and a marvelous parkland provided on the Mersey with views over the Welsh mountains.

They found the Wirral peninsula open and spacious, with plenty of recreation and good village developments.

During the trip the visitors saw parts of Liverpool 8, the area behind the nearly completed Anglican cathedral and one of the worst examples of urban decay in Britain. They saw the South Docks, now obsolete, rotting and waiting for a buyer or developer. They saw abandoned and vandalized blocks of flats, and outside Liverpool what many would regard as poor new town developments.

Mr Green's point was that the general image of Merseyside depends on the worst aspects of the region. Much has been written and shown on television about inner Liverpool, about the difficulties of structural unemployment, about the acute social problems in Kirkby and so on.

All I am asking is that it is all put in perspective. The

Importance
of smoking
as cause of
bronchitis

By Our Health Services Correspondent

The incidence of illness and death from bronchitis remains high despite less atmospheric pollution and better working conditions, the Office of Health Economics says in a report published today. The importance of smoking as a cause of progressive chronic bronchitis, it says.

The disease causes a tenth of all sickness absence from work in the United Kingdom and kills about 30,000 people a year.

Treatment cost the National Health Service about £100m in 1974, when £250m was lost from production through bronchitis illness. The disease was often not detected until too late for effective intervention.

Preventing Bronchitis (Office of Health Economics, 162 Regent Street, London, W1, 3SP).

World experts at
conference on
rheumatic illness

Eighty world experts on rheumatology are to begin an eight-day meeting at Aldenham, Hertfordshire, today to evaluate research and treatment. It is hoped that the meeting, part of World Rheumatism Year, will lead to new cooperation between medical disciplines.

It has been convened for the World Health Organization and the International League Against Rheumatism by the Kennedy Institute of Rheumatology, London, in association with the Arthritis and Rheumatism Council.

After the conference there will be a three-day laboratory meeting at the Kennedy Institute to complement work on patient investigation. A symposium on recognition, standardization and therapeutic evaluation of anti-rheumatic drugs will follow at the Cunard Hotel, Hammersmith, London.

Service to find
jobs is expanded

Capital Radio, the London commercial radio station, is to expand its job-finding service. From April 18, the start of the heavy rush of school-leavers seeking their first jobs, six extra staff from the Government's Employment Service Agency will man the service's special switchboard.

WEST EUROPE

Spanish ex-minister
attacks end of
Communist Party ban

From Our Correspondent Madrid, April 11

The legalization of the Spanish Communist Party has attracted favourable comment from many Spanish political leaders, but not from all of them.

Prominent critics of the move included Señor Manuel Fraga, the former Interior Minister and leader of the centre-right coalition known as the Popular Alliance, and Falangist, Señor Raimundo Fernandez Cuesta, who owes his seat in the outgoing Spanish Parliament to a personal appointment by General Franco.

Señor Fraga, who is also Ambassador to London, said that the legalization of the Communist Party was a grave political error and a juridical farce. He continued: "The political reform in Spain already has enough problems without the unnecessary addition of the legalization of a party which is appearing with the same figures which it presented in 1936."

The only country in Europe in which Communism was defeated is Spain. And now Communism is given legal status without any compensation. It can be said that we are dealing with a real coup d'état which has transformed reform into rupture.

For the first time since the days of the second Spanish Republic, there is a big "P" hanging outside an office building in Madrid with let "Z" high saying: "Spanish Communist Party." The sign, painted on a long sheet of cloth, was unfurled on Saturday night, immediately after the Government declared the Communist Party legal.

Significantly, the Com-

munists were given legal status only two days after General Franco's monolithic party, the National Movement, was abolished by decree.

A member of the Spanish Communist Party's central committee, Señor Simon Sanchez Montero, claimed that the Spanish Communist Party will continue to map out its own policy without interference or intervention from anyone, not Moscow or Peking.

In a long statement, the first official recognition of the party's legalization, the Communists said: "We will participate with decisiveness in the elections." The communiqué called the legalization of the party "a triumph in the cause of democracy."

The communiqué called for a total amnesty, claiming that the same reasons which led to legal recognition of the Communist Party could be adduced for the freedom of all political prisoners.

Señor Santiago Carrillo, the Secretary-General of the Spanish Communist Party, was in Paris when the decision was made. He told Spanish journalists by telephone: "I don't think that Señor Suárez, the Prime Minister, is a friend of the Communist Party. I consider him an intelligent anti-Communist who has understood that ideas cannot be destroyed by making them illegal as a reprisal."

Leading article, page 13

EEC 'ungenerous' to
developing countries

Sura, Fiji, April 11.—Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara, the Prime Minister of Fiji, opening a meeting of the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Council of Ministers, today accused the European Community of being ungenerous and backward towards Third World countries.

Sir Kamisese Mara, President of the ACP council, said that although inflation and unemployment were affecting the Community this did not justify the EEC turning in on itself and away from Third World partners.

"One has become conscious of an unyielding and ungenerous attitude on the part of the Community," he said. "We should forcefully remind them that the poor countries are more vulnerable to recessions than rich countries, and that what is at stake for poor countries is not the loss of marginal luxuries but of basic necessities."

The 52 nations represented

in the ACP grouping have a population of about 275 million and include some of the world's poorest countries.

In a pessimistic summary of economic relations with the Nine, Sir Kamisese Mara said there had been little progress in trade negotiations, particularly over sugar and beef.

He said the Community had offered an unacceptable price for 1,300,000 tonnes of sugar from ACP countries in 1977-78, and new developments could threaten guarantees for the beef trade. He did not elaborate.

He also criticized ACP countries for lack of cooperation among themselves. He said that if progress was to be made, practical considerations must take precedence over ideology.

These criticisms were expected to be answered on Wednesday at a meeting between the ACP Council of Ministers and the EEC Council of Ministers.—Reuter.

Gang blows up
motorway
toll stations

Narbonne, France, April 11.—About thirty masked men blew up six toll stations on a motorway near here last night after overpowering their attendants, police said.

The attackers, thought by police to be wage-earners angry over imports of cheap Italian, Algerian and Spanish wine, first stopped traffic and then placed explosive charges under the stations. The attendants were not harmed.

A spokesman for the regional action committee of vinegrowers denied responsibility but did not discount the possibility of mavericks in the organization.—Reuter.

Pied Piper town
tries to stop
nuclear plant

From Our Correspondent Berlin, April 11

Hamelin, the Pied Piper's town in Lower Saxony, is trying to stop construction of a nuclear power plant near the town.

It has instructed a team of lawyers to seek an injunction against Lower Saxony's Minister for Social Affairs, who has to approve power plant construction plans and who has permitted the first stage of the scheme to go ahead.

The Hamelin local authorities claim he acted illegally as the questions of security and disposal of nuclear waste had not been properly considered.

Guards are held hostage
in Italian prison mutiny

From Our Correspondent Rome, April 11

Seven prisoners claiming to belong to an extreme left-wing guerrilla group today barricaded themselves inside a cell in Perugia jail with four guards as hostages after failing in an escape attempt.

They demanded to see their lawyers and to be transferred to other prisons, or "state concentration camps", as they called them.

The seven were among about 20 prisoners who murdered last night took five guards hostage and tried to force their way out of the prison gate. But a prison officer returning to duty after Easter leave at that moment barred the gate from the outside and fired shots into the air to give the alarm.

The seven, who appeared to be armed, took refuge in a cell with their hostages. Later they released one. Another is said to have a head injury after

being hit with the butt of a pistol.

The seven described themselves as members of a "fighting communist group. Police said the leader appeared to be Massimo Maraschi, the lieutenant of Renato Curcio, jailed leader of the notorious Red Brigades terrorist group.

Police cordoned off the jail while a Perugia magistrate tried to negotiate with the men by telephone. Efforts were being made to trace the lawyers named by the group and some were reported to be on their way to Perugia.

Italy's jails, seething with discontent over the primitive conditions and the slowness of the judicial system, are a principal target for subversive groups. Several mutinies, escapes and attempted escapes have been organized by members of these groups. From inside while magistrates responsible for prison administration have been shot and wounded by unidentified gunmen.

Son of Littlewoods Pools
head killed in crash

Marseilles, April 11.—Mr Nigel Moore, aged 40, son of Mr Cecil Moore, Littlewoods Pools managing director, was killed in a road accident near here on Saturday night, police said.

The 40-year-old Mr Moore had overturned on a country road at Les Baux de Provence, 20 miles from here.

A passenger, Mrs Caroline Harrison, aged 30, was also

killed and two others, Mr James Barrington, aged 38, and Mrs Anne Williams, aged 24, were injured and taken to hospital.

A British consular official said Mr Barrington had chest injuries while Mrs Williams had a broken nose. Mr Moore died in hospital an hour after the accident.

It was thought the four were on holiday here.—Reuter.

Franco tactic used by police to seal off Vitoria

Madrid deals blow to Basque
hopes by suppressing marches

From Harry Debelius Madrid, April 11

A young man whose skull was fractured in a clash with police in Durango, near Bilbao, was the most serious casualty of the Basque national day demonstrations, which took place in dozens of Spanish cities and towns, according to reports here today.

Others injured in the skirmishes in yesterday's officially banned demonstrations included a cameraman filming for Belgian television. Identified as M. E. Bonnamy, he suffered internal bleeding after being hit in the chest by a rubber bullet during a confrontation between police and demonstrators in Vitoria. Several other newsmen who ran to his aid were also shot at with rubber bullets.

The toll of injured throughout the Basque country was impossible to determine because most of those hurt refused to seek medical help for fear they

would be identified. In Durango, however, where Señor Francisco Javier Lejonaza suffered his skull fracture, at least five other people were treated at hospital.

The number of arrests in connexion with the *Aberri Eguna*—the Basque national day which always coincides with Easter Sunday—appeared to be small, with only 10 people reported to be still in custody today in Vitoria, the city where the main demonstration was planned.

But when the Interior Ministry banned the gathering there thousands of Basques went to the shrine of St Ignatius Loyola at Azpeitia near San Sebastian, the alternative assembly point secretly designated by the Basque Nationalist Party. However, as they tried to march behind their red, white and green flag into the centre of Azpeitia, police turned them back without any serious incidents.

The demonstration in Vitoria was hampered by police setting up roadblocks round the city on Saturday afternoon and refusing to allow anyone to enter unless they could prove residence there. It was the same tactic which police used repeatedly under the General Franco to thwart Basque demonstrations.

The theme of this year's *Aberri Eguna*—freedom for political prisoners, liberty and Basque autonomy—nevertheless received ample publicity, partly as a result of the massive police measures aimed at snuffing out the expression of Basque home rule ambitions.

The suppression of the celebrations, combined with the failure of the Government to fulfil what Basque leaders looked on as a promise to free all political prisoners by Easter makes the possibility of understanding between Madrid and the fiercely independent Basques more difficult than ever.

Escape car of Karlsruhe killers found

From Greta Spitzer Berlin, April 11

Police searching for the murderers of Herr Siegfried Buback, the chief West German prosecutor, have found the Alfa Romeo car in which the assassins are thought to have escaped from the scene of the crime in Karlsruhe.

The federal agency for criminal investigation said it had been discovered 40 miles from Karlsruhe at Sachsenheim. It was assumed that this was the car used by the two men who fired the fatal shots from a motor cycle last Thursday.

The agency suspects that after abandoning the motor cycle, the two men changed to the Alfa Romeo, driven by a third man.

An agency spokesman said that an eyewitness saw men getting into the car 75 minutes after the murder.

Police are seeking three men they wish to question in connexion with the murder. They are Gunter Sonnenberg, aged 22, Christian Klar, aged 24, and Kaut Folkerts, aged 25.

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	GF242	1810	2115			0535		0815	
TUE	GF804	1000			1845		2145		2215
	GF248	1810	2115		0525		0815		
	GF122	2045					0640		0820
WED	GF008	1000			1835		2145		2235
	GF028	2000		2200			0725		0825
THURS	GF012	1000			1845		2145		
	GF244	1910	2115		0545		0855		0935
	GF022	1635		2135	0645		0855		
	GF016	1000			1835		2145		2215
FRI	GF024	1835		2135		0635	0855		
	GF248	2015	2220				0750		0825
SAT	GF008	1000			1845		2145		2235
	GF128	2045			0510		0805		0900
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OVERSEAS

Threatened split averted in Israel coalition over Mr Peres nomination for premiership

From Moshe Brilliant
Tel Aviv, April 11

The central committee of the left-wing Mapam Party this evening reversed an earlier decision to break its alignment with the ruling Labour Party if it nominated the reputedly hard-line Mr Peres as a candidate for Prime Minister.

Fifty-eight per cent of the Mapam members voted to continue the alignment on a trial basis and to reassess the partnership in six months' time. In February a decision to continue the alignment under the leadership of Mr Yitzhak Rabin, who has now offered his resignation, was supported by 78 per cent. The two parties have maintained their alignment since 1969.

The dovish Mapam members had feared Mr Peres would not be willing to make the territorial concessions to Jordan which they felt were essential for peace. But Mr Peres appeared before the committee yesterday and said he was bound by the Labour Party platform, adopted in February, which calls for territorial compromise on all fronts.

He also assured the committee that he opposed a coalition including the hard-line Likud Party, and that Jewish settlement in the

occupied West Bank would be limited.

Members of the committee said tonight they valued Mr Peres's assurances but they had been moved by appeals from kibbutz members asking them to close ranks. They also admitted they were influenced by the fact that elections were only five weeks off and they might expose themselves to disaster at the polls if they began organizing at this late hour. Nominations close tomorrow night.

Some losers in today's vote said they would split the party or stay at home on election day.

Meanwhile, the Finance Ministry in Jerusalem announced today that Mr Rabin will be fined 15,000 Israeli pounds (about £1,000) for the violation of currency regulations which caused him to resign. Mrs Leah Rabin, the Prime Minister's wife, who was said to have had \$20,000 (£12,000) in a bank in the United States, will face trial.

The central committee of the Labour Party which approved the latest candidates for Parliament tonight included Mr Rabin as Number twenty, at his own request. It was the same position he held in the 1973 elections.

Elections in Israel are by proportional representation and Number twenty in the Labour list is a safe place.

Tel Aviv, April 11.—Mr Rabin was ordered today to remain in office until a new government is formed after the elections. He had offered his resignation but Mr Aharon Barak, the Attorney-General ruled that there was no legal way to grant his wish to step down from the premiership before the election.

Legal sources said there had been no recent cases of prison terms being imposed for currency offences of this kind. Mrs Rabin will probably be fined a substantial sum.

The reason Mr Rabin could not resign immediately was, ironically, because he had already resigned in December in a political ploy to oust certain ministers from his cabinet. This made him a caretaker Prime Minister, a position which by law he cannot resign. The law is designed to ensure that Israel is never without a Prime Minister.

The ruling meant that Mr Rabin might remain in office for two months or more, since the task of forming coalition governments usually takes several weeks.—AP.

Leading article, page 13



Dr Owen, the Foreign Secretary, with his wife Debbie, is welcomed to Dar es Salaam, the first stop of his African tour, by Mr Benjamin Mkapa, Tanzania's Foreign Minister.

Tory leader welcomed in city of tension

From David Bonavia
Hangchow, April 11

A degree of political tension evidently persists in Hangchow, an important east China manufacturing city, where Mrs Margaret Thatcher arrived today for a one-day visit.

Local officials say that the Hangchow troubles, which culminated in serious rioting two years ago, severely affected production, even of the silks which are the city's main product.

However senior management staff at a silk brocade factory visited by the Conservative Party leader denied that they had been violent and refused to let British reporters interview a number of workers who had been affected by anarchist notions.

They admitted only that a small number of people had been promoted unjustifiably for political reasons and that a considerable number of workers had been affected by anarchist notions.

Both local officials and Foreign Ministry guides from Peking confirmed that the fragrant reports of rioting in Hangchow, which circulated in 1975 were largely based on fact.

The officials pinpointed the origin of the Hangchow troubles in 1972 and 1973 when they said, followers of the since disgraced gang of four tried to use as a weapon in factional fighting but, they said, firemen had not been widely used because the regular armed forces refused to issue ammunition to the people's militia.

Some reports of rioting in the province of Chekiang were killed in the disorders, the officials confirmed, but none in Hangchow itself.

They also asserted that the situation in Hangchow brought under control in the autumn of 1975 by the armed forces which moved into the factories unarmed and persuaded the workers to stop feuding.

The trouble is largely blamed on Mr Wang Shao-kuo, a local trade union official who has since been detained.

In mid-1975 two members of the party, Poliburn, Mr Chen Yung-kuei and Mr Chi Teng-kuei, travelled to Hangchow from Peking allegedly with instructions to stop the promotion of young radical officials.

Last year there was further political trouble in Hangchow caused by the power conflict which resulted in the dismissal of Mr Wang Shao-kuo, the former Prime Minister, from his party and government posts in April, but it was said to have been not as bad as in late 1974 and early 1975.

The worst affected part of Chekiang province was evidently the town of Wenchow where food supplies ceased arriving from the countryside and a black market sprang up. Last March a new party first secretary for the province was appointed and the situation seems to have calmed down, although the traces of wall posters erased recently from city streets can still be seen.

Mrs Thatcher and her party today visited the brocade factory on arriving by Trident jet from the city of Soochow, where photographs of mass demonstrations against the former senior local official were displayed on the streets.

Mrs Thatcher went on to visit the Western Lake after visiting the factory. She leaves tomorrow for Shanghai.

At the factory 6ft-high silk portraits of Chairman Hua Kuo-feng could be seen in production to the two countries. Her portraits of Chou En-lai, the late Prime Minister, are still displayed in this city in memory of Chairman Mao and Mr Chou.

'Vietnam' fears over French in Zaire

Continued from page 1

mutated. The only violent opposition came, predictably, from the Communist Party, which declared that France's action was a blow to the African people's "struggle for liberation and social progress". The party addressed a letter of protest to the President.

The decision appears clearly to have been the President's. It has been indicated that King Hassan probably had the promise of the airlift from President Giscard d'Estaing before final plans to send his expeditionary force had been drawn up.

President Giscard d'Estaing is expected to explain the motives behind the French move in a television interview tomorrow night. It has already been made known that he will emphasize that, although no defence treaty governed the airlift, it fell within the sphere of cooperation and friendship between France and both Morocco and Zaire.

Far-fetched though the Vietnam parallels might be, there is no doubt that revelation of the extent and longstanding nature of France's military co-operation with Zaire has surprised most Frenchmen.

An Elysee Palace source said today that among the weapons already supplied to Zaire were 17 Mirage V fighter-bombers, 290 AML light armoured cars and five Puma and Alouette helicopters. Considerably more arms are understood to have been supplied since the threat to President Mobutu's regime first became evident.

As M. Couve de Murville, General de Gaulle's Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, pointed out today, the French action was political. It was, he said, a demonstration that France is opposed to the subversion that has rocked Africa recently and would be assuring to her friends on the continent.

Our Washington Correspondent writes: The State Department said today that there had been no prior consultation between France and the United States over the air lift, although Paris had notified Washington of its intentions. A spokesman also stated "categorically" that the Moroccans in Zaire were not using the American weapons with which they are normally equipped.

Tacit agreement to curb nuclear exports

From Fred Emery
Washington, April 11

A report that the seven leading nuclear power "supplier" countries had agreed that there be no further export of fuel reprocessing or enrichment technology but only nuclear "services", is likely to turn out to be true even though no such agreement exists, an authoritative American official explained here today.

Newspaper magazine, reporting further on President Carter's domestic renunciation of commercial plutonium facilities, had stated that the controversial French and German nuclear reprocessing sales respectively to Pakistan and Brazil would be respected.

That is not the Carter Administration's position, the official explained. While there is no objection to the German sales of reactors to Brazil, the Administration still strongly opposes both the German and French transfer of reprocessing technology, on the grounds that it spreads weapons technology even further.

Of the seven "suppliers" who have conferred sporadically and so far abortively in London, New York, the United States, Canada, Japan, Britain and the Soviet Union—have no intention of exporting enrichment or reprocessing technology and equipment.

France and West Germany are understood to have maintained that they must proceed with their present contracts, but that they will not make any such future sales. Thus the effect of the seven nations' policies will be to oppose further exports, and prefer instead fuel services' agreements with countries to whom reactors are sold.

The same official, who is intimately involved in the formulation of Mr Carter's new policy and its international implications, suggested that concern on the part of other nuclear suppliers over Mr Carter's domestic policy was unwarranted.

He conceded that there was an element of "suspicion" in that Mr Carter's policy of renouncing plutonium "by example" could lead to finger-pointing at those who felt unable to renounce it.

But the main point was to ensure that plutonium technologies were kept in safe hands, while the suppliers got together to work out far more stringent controls and arrangements for reprocessing of spent nuclear fuels than existed at present.

Difficulties in Russia over financing trade deficits

From Frank Vogt
Washington, April 11

The Soviet Union is encountering increasing difficulties in financing its foreign trade deficits. The size of its deficits may decline somewhat this year and in 1978 while its foreign gold sales may be increased.

A recent study by the United States Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) estimates that the Soviet Union had a \$5,000m (about £2,950m) convertible currency trade deficit last year and it is likely to have a deficit of about \$3,000m to \$4,000m this year, and one of \$2,500m to \$3,500m in 1978.

The CIA notes that the export deficit could be substantially worse if the Soviet Union suffers bad harvests again. Any increase in the forecast deficits could pose serious financing problems, as the CIA points out that the Soviet Union is increasingly reluctant to continue making large loans to the Soviet Union.

The CIA comments that heavy past foreign borrowing by the Soviet Union is forcing this country now to allocate mounting hard currency sums to debt servicing, and that these sums may well total \$3,000m this year and almost \$4,000m in 1978.

This is essential because, "although Western bankers still regard the USSR as very credit worthy, Soviet borrowing in 1975-76 brought many major United States and Western European banks close to their lending limits vis-a-vis the USSR".

Because of this the Soviet Union is believed to be striving to limit new borrowing. The CIA predicts increasing Soviet gold sales, amounting to an average of 25 tons a month this year and 28 tons monthly in 1978. The Soviet Union is estimated to have earned roughly \$1,000m from gold sales in the West in 1976.

Guerrillas ignore Arafat call for ceasefire

Beirut, April 11.—Palestinian guerrillas fiercely attacked rightist forces round the southern Lebanese town of Marjayoun today despite orders by Mr Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader, to cease fire.

High-ranking Palestinian sources said Mr Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), had instructed the guerrillas last night to stop fighting for rightist-held positions in the sensitive area near the Israeli border.

The order followed talks in Damascus last Saturday between Mr Arafat and President Assad of Syria after the PLO chief toured leftist-Palestinian positions in southern Lebanon.

Despite the order, fresh fighting flared overnight when Palestinian guerrillas and their leftist Lebanese allies increased pressure on rightist-held Marjayoun.

Palestinian officials quoted reports from the battlefield that heavy overnight artillery duels had been followed by close combat beginning at dawn today. Fighting slackened early this afternoon.

The right-wing Phalangist Party radio also reported artillery duels and ground fighting in the triangle formed by Marjayoun and the former rightist strongpoints of Kleya and Khyam, stormed by the leftist-Palestinian alliance last Thursday.

Palestinian sources said that today they used the ceasefire to move troops into Marjayoun, a hill-top town overlooking the Israeli border. But it was not clear whether they had taken up positions or had withdrawn after hit-and-run attacks.

Mr Arafat's reasons for ordering his troops to stop the fight at a time when they appear to have the upper hand were a matter of speculation.

The Palestinians and their allies captured Khyam and Kleya, on an important road junction farther south, in an offensive of such a scale that it could not have been launched without the tacit approval of Syria, observers said.

Syria is providing most of the 30,000 Arab League peace force which ended the 19-month civil war in other parts of the country last November. The Syrians also control one of the two main supply lines to the leftist-Palestinian alliance in the south.

At the time the offensive was launched, Syria had displayed signs of displeasure with some of the more radical rightist leaders in Lebanon, and the Damascus Government was also understood to be embarrassed by the close links between rightist forces and Israel.

Observers said the order to stop the assault had almost certainly been coordinated with Syria. One theory was that Syria had succeeded in teaching a lesson to the right.

Another theory was that Damascus might feel that the capture of Marjayoun could provoke large-scale Israeli retaliation.—Reuter.

Pakistanis urged to withhold taxes

From Richard Wigg
Lahore, April 11

Large anti-government crowds marched through the centre of Lahore tonight shouting demands for fresh elections. They also shouted insults at Mr Bhutto, the Prime Minister.

As the demonstration dispersed the police fired tear gas at youths throwing stones from narrow side streets. When this continued, the police resorted to firing warning shots in the air. But one of these hit and fatally wounded a youth of 20 who was standing on a balcony, eyewitnesses said. Three other people, including a boy of 13, were also hit. All had to be taken to hospital.

The opposition National Alliance intensified its campaign of disobedience after the elections on Saturday in Lahore, the capital of Punjab province, in which at least 20 people were killed. It called on the entire country to refuse to pay any more taxes to what it styled a "usurper Government".

The National Alliance of nine parties won only 35 out of the 200 seats in the National Assembly in the general election of March 9. For the past month it has mounted a growing campaign of civil protest against what it alleges was "preparation and massive rigging" of the election on the orders of the People's Party Government of Mr Bhutto.

Tonight crowds jeered and booed lorry-loads of police with rifles at the ready. The opposition blames the police for Saturday's "overkill" whether on Government instructions or on their own initiative.

By contrast, when an Army jeep went down the Mall, Lahore's main thoroughfare, its occupants were mobbed and applauded.

The appeal not to pay any taxes also urged Pakistanis working abroad to reduce their remittances home to families to a minimum.

The appeal was decided by the National Alliance's general council meeting here under Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan, its acting president. Most of the Alliance's other leaders are in prison and their MPs have been arrested for their seats in the National Assembly.

By appealing for a tax boycott the Opposition has chosen a difficult terrain in its trial of strength with the Government.

The Nawabzada sounded determined that the protest movement would go on when he visited him today. Sitting on a bed and sucking every now and again from a richly decorated hookah, the elderly opposition politician clearly chose to interpret the public protest wave against the elections as endorsement of his group's political aims.

He denied that the Opposition was refusing Mr Bhutto's offer of a dialogue as a way out of the impasse. He was adamant on the Opposition's main demand to hold a fresh election.

Although that is clearly difficult for Mr Bhutto to concede, the Nawabzada also wants him to step down and make way for some neutral administration to prepare the election.

Only on the ways and means of setting up that administration, so as to avoid a power vacuum, did he give the impression of being willing to negotiate.

Our Rawalpindi Correspondent writes: A fresh wave of disorder swept Karachi today. Security forces opened fire on mobs attacking banks and Peoples Party offices and two persons were reported to have been killed and many others injured. A strike brought normal life in the city to a virtual standstill.

A new and ominous development occurred today in Karachi when workers of Mr Bhutto's Peoples Party clashed with Pakistan labourers in Sher Shah. Sides were said to have suffered serious injuries.

According to opposition sources 39 people were killed by security forces at Lahore on Saturday's rioting. The reports have heightened passions in Rawalpindi and other cities where security measures there were demonstrations were today.

In brief

Rebel chief says yes to autonomy

Jiddah, Saudi Arabia, April 11.—Mr Nur Misuari, the Filipino Muslim rebel leader, living in exile in Libya, has accepted a plan for a Muslim-dominated autonomous provisional government in the southern Philippines.

The plan was recently worked out by President Marcos and Colonel Gaddafi, the Libyan leader. Mr Misuari is attending the conference of Islamic states here.

Cuban memorial

Miami, Florida, April 11.—The 200 Americans who are helping to gather Cuba's sugar cane harvest or are involved in construction work on the island, will build a monument to the Cuban soldiers killed in the Angola war.

Chemical warfare ban

Geneva, April 11.—After secret Soviet-American talks here last week, the two countries are to prepare a draft text of an agreement on the possible banning of chemical warfare.

Cult men found shot

New York, April 11.—Four men belonging to the Rastafarian religious cult were found in a Brooklyn flat yesterday shot dead through the head, with their hands tied behind their backs.

Symphonic debut

Moscow, April 11.—Elgar's Second Symphony was given its first performance in the Soviet Union here today in a concert by the Soviet State Symphony Orchestra to mark the composer's 120th anniversary.

Defence chiefs meet

Belgrade, April 11.—Mr Mulley, Secretary of State for Defence, had talks here today with his Yugoslav counterpart, General Nikola Ljubicic.

Princess engaged

Amman, April 11.—Princess Alia, King Hussein's daughter, who is 21, will become engaged tomorrow to Mr Wasfi Mirza, a former Jordanian security officer, aged 26.

Polish father's plea

Warsaw, April 11.—The father of a Polish worker jailed for his part in the foot price riot last June, has appealed to President Carter to intercede for his son's release.

Washington visitor

Washington, April 11.—President Carlos Andrés Pérez of Venezuela, will visit Washington on June 29 and 30.

Indian Government seeks support among states

From Our Correspondent
Delhi, April 11

Janata, India's new ruling party, today formed a state government in Gujarat after the collapse of the Congress Party majority. The state went to the polls a few months before the imposition of a state of emergency in June, 1975, and the opposition parties were returned with a majority. Later defections, however, allowed the Congress Party to form the government.

After the overthrow of Mrs Indira Gandhi, the Congress Party Prime Minister, however, resignations from her party have returned the opposition parties under the cloak of Janata as the ruling party in Gujarat.

The Janata victory has more than local significance; Mr Desai's central government is faced with an existing Congress Party majority in the Rajya Sabha (Upper House).

It needs to carry its national victory into the state assemblies that nominate members of the Upper House to establish its ascendancy there and prevent obstruction to its programmes.

Last week the new government tried to restore the period for state elections to once every five years, rescinding an amendment changing them to once every year.

This would mean elections would have to be held in about three-quarters of India's states before next August, giving Janata a chance to pursue its electoral advantage.

Janata is particularly eager to establish control of upper house before the election of a new President.

If more states follow the example of Gujarat and change their administrative units by uniting the Opposition and by withdrawing away Congress Party majorities, including Congress members to cross the floor, Janata can entrench its constitutional position. If this does not happen the Congress Party may be forced into dropping outright opposition and entering into some sort of agreement.

It has also been suggested that it is possible to challenge the Act, extending the life of Parliament and state assemblies from five to six years. It is argued that this changed the basic structure of the Constitution, which Parliament had no right to do.

Japanese flights to Vietnam approved

Tokyo, April 11.—Vietnam has agreed to allow Japan to fly tourists by charter aircraft between the two countries. All Nippon Airways said today. The flights will be to Hanoi or Ho Chi Minh City, formerly Saigon.—Reuter.

Ethiopia alleges attacks by Sudanese Army

Addis Ababa, April 11.—Ethiopia protested to the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) today that Sudanese forces had attacked border towns in the north and west of the country, an official spokesman said.

The complaint was lodged by Mr Feleke Gedle-Ghiorgis, the Foreign Minister, at a meeting with Mr William Ezekiel Mbowmou, the OAU secretary-general.

The spokesman gave no details of the alleged aggression by Sudanese forces.

Secessionist guerrillas in the northern province of Eritrea have been reporting successes against Ethiopian troops in recent days. But there has been no previous report from officials here of any direct involvement by Sudanese forces.

Relations between Ethiopia and Sudan have deteriorated since last July when President Nimeiry of Sudan accused Ethiopia of aiding his opponents in an attempted coup.

Since then Sudan has been openly supporting the Eritrean guerrillas and covertly giving help to a former royalist group fighting the Addis Ababa Government in the north-west.—Reuter and AP.

Second Soviet fishing ship arrested by US

From Our Own Correspondent
Washington, April 11

A second Soviet fisheries ship has been ordered into Boston so that a cargo of illegally-caught herring can be confiscated, the State Department confirmed today.

The fish had been loaded on to the Anatas Snachuk, a refrigeration ship, from the trawler Taras Shevchenko, which was arrested yesterday. It was escorted into Boston today by the United States Coast Guard.

A State Department spokesman insisted the incidents "are not regarded as a jolt to American-Soviet relations" by the Carter Administration.

He said the Russians "had simply been carrying out the new fishing law" the new fishing law, Soviet diplomats were being called in to the department this afternoon for consultation with Mr Warren Christopher, the Deputy Secretary of State.

The arrests have been greeted indignantly by the fishing industry. One of its most outspoken Congressional supporters, Mr Gerry Studds, of Massachusetts, joked as the Taras Shevchenko was escorted into Boston that it would "make a great museum in New Bedford", the home of the defunct American whaling industry.

Soviet seamen waved to spectators on the pier and the commander of the Coast Guard cutter which made the arrest said: "It's a thrill and an honour to be the first Coast Guard vessel to seize a foreign fishing vessel."

According to Mr Hoddling Carter, the State Department spokesman, the refrigeration ship was carrying 50 tons of river herring illegally caught by the trawler. He said that under the new licensing requirements, the Taras Shevchenko should not have taken more than seven and a half tons.

The Russians had allegedly recorded all these violations in their log books. Mr Carter said they had no excuse for ignorance of the new law's requirements. Both the Russian and American Governments had made their requirements clear. The trawler was primarily fishing for hake, and its river herring catch should have amounted to no more than one per cent of the total.

He said he did not know which charges "civil or criminal or both" would be brought against the vessel and its master.

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Concorde rights hearing set for April 28

New York, April 11.—A federal district court judge today ordered all parties involved in the dispute over New York landing rights for Concorde to appear in court on April 28.

Judge Milton Pollack said that he would consider the claim by British Airways and Air France that Kennedy Airport operators are illegally keeping out the Anglo-French supersonic airliner.

The hearing could still be averted if the New York and New Jersey Port Authority decided to allow the airline to land. The board which has postponed its decision four times, is due to meet on Thursday.—Reuter.

Soviet mission in Athens

From Our Correspondent
Athens, April 11

A Soviet diplomatic mission arrived in Athens today in a fresh attempt to improve Greek-Soviet relations which, both sides admit, are inadequate at all levels.

The mission is led by Mr Vasily Grublikov, director general on Turkey, Greece and Cyprus at the Soviet Foreign Ministry. He will be having talks on Wednesday with Mr Ioannis Tsoumis, director general for Political Affairs.

Greek officials emphasized today that these contacts should not be construed as a reorientation of Greek policy or as an attempt to put pressure on the

Cuba and Malta set up diplomatic relations

Havana, April 11.—Cuba and Malta established full diplomatic relations today, the official Cuban daily *Granma* reported.—Reuter.

West to show favour to Greece

The Soviet Union blames the Greek Government for resisting a substantial improvement of bilateral relations. To illustrate this, Soviet officials point to the Greek ban on a tour by a Soviet folklore dancing group last week on the ground that, in the absence of a cultural agreement, the frequency of such visits should be more balanced.

This week's talks are expected to deal with bilateral questions, economic and political, and such broader issues as relations in the Balkans, the range of Greek-Turkish disputes, Cyprus, and particularly the Helsinki conference follow-up in Belgrade.

How government out of control

Lao force

Mores islands

Mekran the camel

Tory leader
welcomed
in city of
tension

How to stop the government machine running out of control

One of the main planks in the Lib-Lab pact is that "progress must be made on legislation for devolution and to this end consultations will begin on the detailed memorandum submitted by the Liberal Party." Those consultations will have little chance of success unless there is a clear recognition on all sides of the purposes of devolution. Here there appear to be two choices. To some people devolution is simply a dangerous expedient which the government has adopted in an attempt to appease the Scottish and Welsh nationalists. To others, devolution is the essential first step in a long overdue reform of our system of government as a whole.

It is largely because the government's proposals seem to be inspired primarily by the appeasement objective that they have run into such trouble. And it is parsimonious appeasement at that. So the amount of devolution appears to have been calculated on the basis of the minimum necessary to thwart the Scottish National Party and Plaid Cymru, rather than on considerations of the good government of the United Kingdom as a whole. Hence so many of the imperfections in the Bill which have become abundantly clear since Christmas. Hence, too, the very real fears in some English regions that this appeasement policy will be at their expense. And, hence, finally, the disagreement about whether it is necessary to go down the appeasement road at all—with many honestly believing that the very real Welsh demand for devolution will subside with the arrival of a firm government and the return to economic prosperity.

But the essence of the case for devolution is nothing at all to do with appeasing the Scottish and Welsh nationalists. As Professor Peacock and myself argue in our Constitution Commission Minority Report the main purpose of devolution is to reduce the present excessive burdens on the institutions of central government. So great are those burdens today that busy ministers, hurried from pillar to post with the crises of the moment, whether the problems of British Leyland or the Plessey closures—no longer have the time to take well thought out decisions about the major issues of our time. And Parliament, with its powers in decline (apart from an exceptional and negative assertion every now and again—possible only in a minority government situation), shrivels about helplessly and vainly at the receiving end of a mass of decisions it has had little share in shaping and inadequate time to scrutinize.

This state of affairs is the inevitable consequence of the vastly increased responsibilities and functions heaped on our central government machine since the beginning of the century. In 1900 the role of government was mainly passive and regulatory. Today, we expect it to manage the economy, control most of our basic industries, run a comprehensive social security system and a national health service, protect the environment, make the right decisions about the future

nuclear power programme, develop North Sea oil and handle any immediate crisis whether it's about the deportation of a couple of visitors or about cattle stranded over the weekend in a ship in the Irish Sea.

Not surprisingly, there has been an enormous expansion in the central government machine. In 1900 60 ministers and 50,000 civil servants ran our domestic affairs. Today the number of ministers has just about doubled—while the number of civil servants has increased 15 fold—to 750,000. No wonder, then, the burden on ministers and Parliament is now intolerable. No wonder the whole machine is in danger of seizing up completely. No wonder we are so badly governed—whatever party seeks to try to run the central juggernaut.

These developments of the last three-quarters of a century have been compounded in the last few years by our membership of the European Community. The constant ministerial meetings in Brussels and the toings and froings between Whitehall bureaucrats and their EEC counterparts have increased still further the enormous burden on ministers and Parliament. So the face we are faced with without a major reform of our system of government is in danger of grinding to a halt or running out of democratic control (whichever the preferred metaphor might be).

The case for devolution, then, is to reduce the present intolerable burdens on Whitehall and Westminster in the interests of the good government of the United Kingdom as a whole. So ministers and central government must get rid of a lot of the executive decision-making and subordinate policy making that now prevents them from devoting enough time and energy to major policy making. And if the burdens on central government are reduced in this way—it will then be possible for Parliament to develop a real and positive share in the central policy making process.

It is raining considerations of this kind that the government's own proposals for devolution have to be judged. And here it must be plainly recognized that in their present form those proposals will not clear the decks of Whitehall and Westminster. Indeed the Scotland and Wales Bills could add still further to the burdens on central government. This is partly because the Bill fails to make a clean break between what is devolved and what is not devolved. It is also partly because the Bill appears to envisage a continuous and detailed oversight by the United Kingdom Government of the Scottish and Welsh assemblies which carry out even those responsibilities that are devolved. So the scheme envisages a substantial increase in bureaucracy—which is not at all what we want. In any event, with devolution to Scotland and Wales only (and with a sufficient kind of devolution in each case) the Government will inevitably be faced



Lord Crowther-Hunt argues that devolution is a chance to reform our whole system of government

by the complex problem of having one dimension of legislative and administrative responsibility for the affairs of Scotland, a different dimension of responsibility for the affairs of Wales—and a still different dimension of responsibility for England. That must, in itself, add to the burdens of the centre, rather than reduce them.

It would be wrong, however, to draw the conclusion from all this that the government's present plans should be completely abandoned. Those plans can still be modified in such a way that they make a major contribution to what is the real purpose of devolution—a major reduction in the burdens on Whitehall and Westminster in the interests of the good government of the United Kingdom as a whole.

The options for progress then, are still there, but what are they? In some quarters there will be an evident temptation to believe that the log jam in Whitehall and Westminster can be greatly relieved by a major reduction in what the Government actually does—less interference by Government in our daily lives. It is a tempting prospect, but, I believe, an impractical one. It is not just a question of saving a few civil servants here and there by more efficient administration. It would involve major surgery. It would mean identifying a substantial number of the current major functions and responsibilities of government which could be jettisoned virtually completely.

Where are the candidates? No doubt we can all point to something that could be abandoned—from the government's community land policies to the nationalization of the aircraft and shipbuilding industries. But until someone can demonstrate which of the current major responsibilities of central government can be so jettisoned that the Civil Service can be reduced by the order of 50 per cent and the present burdens on ministers and Parliament more than halved, I don't believe there is any substantial mileage in this particular approach. Moreover, the proponents of this solution would also have to demonstrate how, without any major change in our system of government, we can ensure a drastic reduction in the volume of legislation—which, under governments of both our main political parties, has steadily increased from filling 1,076 pages of the statute book in 1955 to 2,248 pages in the last full year of Mr Heath's Conservative Government.

There is a second widely canvassed option which also seems to me a non-starter. This is the Conservative scheme for having a directly elected assembly in Scotland to deal with certain stages of Scottish Bills as they pass through the Westminster Parliament—with the final decision being taken by the Westminster Parliament and Government. This scheme would obviously produce constant clashes between the Scottish assembly and the Westminster Government whenever the one had a different party majority from the other. Just consider, for example, the

situation that would inevitably arise if, say, a United Kingdom Conservative Government brought forward a Conservative Housing Bill for Scotland. It would be turned into a Socialist one by a Labour-dominated Scottish assembly—which the Conservative-dominated Westminster Parliament would then presumably reject. That way—deadlock and cumulative frustration. More serious, though, a scheme of this kind would not produce any reduction in the United Kingdom Government's responsibilities for Scotland—whether those responsibilities were exercised by United Kingdom ministers in London or by United Kingdom ministers running the Scottish Office. So it simply would not begin to achieve the main purpose for which devolution is designed.

This, of course, brings us to the heart of the matter—since the only options worth serious consideration are those which would clear the decks of Whitehall and Westminster of much of the clutter of subordinate policy-making and executive decision-making which today so impedes the rational handling of our affairs. By this test there are obvious attractions in the traditional federalist approach (which, incidentally, the Commission on the Constitution has seriously considered notwithstanding its root and branch condemnation of it). Clearly it would be possible to devise a workable federal scheme for the United Kingdom as a whole provided the component parts were Scotland, Wales and a number of English regions. But I'm not sure that we are prepared to contemplate in this country a situation in which real sovereignty for education, housing, health, etc. is handed over to Scotland, Wales and the different regions of England which would then be able to pass whatever primary legislation they wanted in those fields.

Do we really want the possibility of basically different education systems and health services in different parts of the United Kingdom? And if the various regions and nations of the United Kingdom did not use their sovereignty in these fields to produce very different primary laws—then either there would have been no point in giving them that amount of power—or new bureaucratic structures for inter-regional coordination and liaison would have been developed to ensure that the different parts of the United Kingdom did not exercise their sovereign powers in unacceptably divergent ways—and I'm not sure we want that sort of bureaucratic paradise.

The more fundamental case, though, against "traditional" federalism is that it no longer meets the essential needs of modern government. This is because its very essence is the increasingly outmoded concept of sovereignty. The idea that the component parts of a federal state can actually expect today to exercise real sovereign power in certain specified fields like education and health has only to be stated for its unreality and undesirability to be recognized. It is even more unreal for those countries which are members of the EEC. For them in particular it

makes little sense to seek to devolve sovereignty downwards from the nation state to the component parts of that state when ultimate sovereignty in most matters is gradually moving from the nation states themselves to Brussels.

It is in this context that we have so much to learn from the experience of West Germany—a country with a population roughly the size of our own. Though in theory a traditional federal structure it has gradually, under the impact of events, become something rather different. To all intents and purposes the Federal Government in Bonn increasingly makes major policy for the whole of West Germany in most fields—leaving it to the various Länder in effect to adapt those policies to their own special needs and to administer them accordingly. It is this broad reality of the West German system which, I believe, should be the model for devolution in the United Kingdom. And the Government's Scotland and Wales Bill can be the starting point—subject to three main provisions.

First, the Bill must be modified in such a way that there is a much clearer and more comprehensive definition of the precise powers to be devolved to Scotland and Wales. And those legislative and executive powers must be devolved in such a way that their exercise is not subject to detailed control and oversight by the Westminster Government.

Secondly, financial arrangements must be devised which, while still enabling the Westminster Government to exercise its responsibilities for the overall management of the United Kingdom economy, will, nevertheless, not circumscribe the Scottish and Welsh governments in the exercise of the powers constitutionally devolved to them. This is not as difficult as the Treasury would have us believe; and it naturally means giving the Scottish and Welsh governments the power to tax.

Thirdly, the Government must make it clear that something analogous to an amended Welsh model of devolution will eventually be available to the English regions. This will be some assurance that devolution to Scotland and Wales will not be at the long term expense of the people in the northern region, the north west region and Yorkshire and Humberside, for example. More important, though, it will be a recognition that the main purpose of devolution is to reduce the burdens on Whitehall and Westminster in the interests of the good government of the United Kingdom as a whole and thus enable United Kingdom ministers and Parliament to develop a cooperative and sensible approach to major policy making which is impossible at present.

And if all this sounds suspiciously like a reassertion of the main ideas which Professor Peacock and myself put forward in our Constitution Commission Minority Report in 1973—well, it is. There we put forward a comprehensive blueprint for the future of our system of government as a whole—including, even, the reform of the House of Lords. It's all very relevant to the Lib-Lab talks now getting under way.

OVERSEAS

Forgery to discredit Polish opposition

By Richard Davy

A letter published recently in the West German right-wing newspaper *Deutsche National Zeitung* looks like the latest in a series of forgeries designed to discredit and disrupt opposition forces in Poland.

It bears the signatures of Professor Leszek Kolakowski, now resident in Britain, and Mr Adam Michnik, a Polish historian now visiting the West. Both have been speaking in West Germany on behalf of the Workers' Defence Committee, which was formed in Warsaw last year to help workers who suffered reprisals after the June demonstration against higher food prices.

The letter thanks Germans who have helped the committee and singles out for special mention the *Deutsche National Zeitung*, Radio Free Europe, and the organizations of expellees from former German territories.

Polish newspapers are quoting the letter as evidence that the committee has joined forces with "the heirs of Hitler's Third Reich" with extreme revisionist and anti-Polish organizations of Germans resettled from Poland, all of whom are "marching together to the drumbeat of the Munich-based Radio Free Europe".

Professor Kolakowski and Mr Michnik, who learnt only belatedly about the letter, have denounced it as a "total forgery". They draw attention to the press conference they gave in West Germany on March 17 in which they thanked "those in the German Federal Republic who in the past have fought for the recognition of the Polish western frontiers and for an understanding between our peoples".

The forgery, say the two men in a letter to *Der Spiegel*, is not an isolated episode but is the first in which the forgers have allowed themselves to be dragged into cooperation with

the "chauvinist and anti-Polish circles of the German right wing who question the permanency of the Polish state".

There is no direct evidence that the letter was forged by the Polish police, or some other official department, but it fits in with the recent revival in the Polish press of anti-German propaganda, which almost wholly vanished after the treaty with West Germany was signed in 1970.

It also accords with a trend throughout Eastern Europe and in the Soviet Union to allege links between dissident groups and various Western political or intelligence organizations.

In Poland itself there have been a number of forgeries in recent months. At least two forged communiques purporting to come from the Workers' Defence Committee have been circulated. One of them said that the committee had been infiltrated, that members should not trust each other, and that any further communiques should be treated as forgeries.

A falsified text of a press conference given in London by Professor Kolakowski and Mr Michnik was sent to Poland. Even Cardinal Wyszyński, the Polish Primate, has not been spared the publication of a falsified version of his sermons. But in this case the official Polish press agency published his denial.

The Workers' Defence Committee has put out more information pointing to increased pressure on its members and supporters. Workers who complained about ill-treatment after the demonstrations in Radom last year have been harassed, threatened and told to withdraw their complaints, according to the committee. University has announced disciplinary action against student signatories of a letter, signed altogether by about 750 people and requesting Parliament to investigate allegations of police brutality.

Pathet Lao force recaptures Mekong islands

Bangkok, April 11.—Pathet Lao troops recaptured two small islands in the Mekong river from rightist rebel troops today, killing at least eight of them, according to official information circulated in Vietnam.

Loudspeaker cars toured the Laotian capital broadcasting the news to the people, eyewitnesses told a correspondent by telephone.

The recapture of the islands followed 24 hours of tension in Vietnam during which the communist rulers of Laos stationed at least three tanks on the Mekong river bank facing Thailand.—Reuters.

British arms sales ship slips into Manila

Manila, April 11.—A Royal Navy ship, carrying an exhibition promoting British arms sales, slipped quietly into the Philippines this weekend on the latest stage of its Far East tour.

A British embassy official confirmed that the 12,359-ton support ship, *Lyonesse*, had arrived in Manila.

Sources promoted the weapons being promoted are understood to include ground-to-air missiles and Scorpion tanks.

The *Lyonesse* is due to visit Bangkok, Singapore, Jakarta and Port Kelang in Malaysia after leaving the Philippines.—Reuters.

IMPORTANT: BRITISH AIRWAYS FLIGHT INFORMATION

We very much regret the inconvenience to our passengers that has arisen from the industrial dispute at London Airport and are grateful for their understanding at this time.

The majority of British Airways services are now operating normally, but we regret that it is still necessary to cancel a number of flights. We hope that passengers will find the following information helpful.

INTERCONTINENTAL FLIGHTS

Nearly all British Airways intercontinental services are operating according to the published timetable. However, a small number of cancellations has been made and any passengers affected will be advised prior to departure.

EUROPEAN FLIGHTS

We are operating to all countries other than Eastern Europe, details as follows.

Services from London

Flights are operating normally to:—

Alicante
Amsterdam
Athens
Barcelona
Bilbao

Bordeaux
Brussels
Gibraltar
Helsinki
Istanbul

Larnaca
Lisbon
Luxembourg
Malaga
Malta

Marseille
Nice
Oporto
Oslo
Palma

Paris
Stockholm
Tel Aviv
Valencia
Vienna

We are also operating to all the following destinations, but since it has been necessary to change some flights, passengers should check with 01-370 5411, 01-828 9711 or 01-759 3131.

Berlin
Bremen
Cologne
Copenhagen
Corfu

Cork
Dublin
Dusseldorf
Faro
Frankfurt

Geneva
Hamburg
Hanover
Lyons
Madrid

Milan
Munich
Pisa
Rome
Shannon

Stuttgart
Turin
Zurich

Services from Provincial Centres

All international flights from provincial centres are operating normally.

DOMESTIC FLIGHTS

Services from London

Channel Islands flights are operating via coach to Southampton. All other flights cancelled until further notice.

Services between Provincial Centres

The majority of these flights are operating normally.

Whilst we shall make every effort to operate these schedules, it may be necessary to make some alterations for operational reasons.

**British
airways**

We'll take more care of you.

SPORT

Show jumping

No holding Kerrygold in field left with taste of too much too soon

Amelia Macgregor-Morris, who rode the former Peto, demonstrated her joint victory by the Embassy International Prix at Hickstead yesterday. The only double clear round was a course which, combined with holding going, proved to be just too much, too soon, for most horses and riders. The water and the final fence overtook a heavy roll and the competition, scheduled for two rounds and a barrage, did not extend that far. Kerrygold, on whom the champion-bred, 10-year-old, was runner-up for the world championship here in 1974, shook off his second round opponent in the second round.

Swimming



Cheryl Brazendale breaking the British record in the 800 metres free-style.

Four records for Miss Brazendale

Cheryl Brazendale set British senior free-style records at all four metric distances during the swimming international sponsored by Coca-Cola, which ended at Crystal Palace yesterday. Frank Naylor, who coaches the 14-year-old Blackpool girl, said: "I knew she could do it. I was aiming at four records when I pulled her out of the trip to Luxembourg."

Yesterday's results

Men
100 metres free-style: 1. M. Kerry (Australia), 53.31; 2. J. Duns (USA), 53.32; 3. J. Duns (USA), 53.33; 4. J. Duns (USA), 53.34; 5. J. Duns (USA), 53.35; 6. J. Duns (USA), 53.36; 7. J. Duns (USA), 53.37; 8. J. Duns (USA), 53.38; 9. J. Duns (USA), 53.39; 10. J. Duns (USA), 53.40; 11. J. Duns (USA), 53.41; 12. J. Duns (USA), 53.42; 13. J. Duns (USA), 53.43; 14. J. Duns (USA), 53.44; 15. J. Duns (USA), 53.45; 16. J. Duns (USA), 53.46; 17. J. Duns (USA), 53.47; 18. J. Duns (USA), 53.48; 19. J. Duns (USA), 53.49; 20. J. Duns (USA), 53.50; 21. J. Duns (USA), 53.51; 22. J. Duns (USA), 53.52; 23. J. Duns (USA), 53.53; 24. J. Duns (USA), 53.54; 25. J. Duns (USA), 53.55; 26. J. Duns (USA), 53.56; 27. J. Duns (USA), 53.57; 28. J. Duns (USA), 53.58; 29. J. Duns (USA), 53.59; 30. J. Duns (USA), 53.60; 31. J. Duns (USA), 53.61; 32. J. Duns (USA), 53.62; 33. J. Duns (USA), 53.63; 34. J. Duns (USA), 53.64; 35. J. Duns (USA), 53.65; 36. J. Duns (USA), 53.66; 37. J. Duns (USA), 53.67; 38. J. 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Ref: 510

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MOROCCANS TO THE RESCUE

Lib-Lab electoral pact

From Lord Beaumont of Whitley
Sir, Mr. Richard Lamb's suggestion (Letters, April 11) for a modified electoral pact between the Liberal and Labour parties is retrograde, impractical and undemocratic.

It is retrograde because a situation where the Liberals hold seats by the good will of another party is debilitating and precarious. The moment when we emerged as a national party again was the moment when such pacts collapsed and few of us would want to move back.

It is impractical because it is highly unlikely that the left wing of the Labour Party, and therefore the NEC, would allow it to happen. It is undemocratic because, even under our unfair electoral system, the voters should be given a choice between Liberalism and Socialism, which are, as Mr. Lamb would be the first to state, very different animals. This is the fundamental reason why many of us have campaigned over the years—successfully—against the Liberal Party.

It is quite likely that in the short term an arrangement such as Mr. Lamb describes would be good for both the Liberal and Labour Parties. I believe that in the long term it would be bad for both of them and that in both the short and long term it would be bad for democracy.

Yours etc.
TIM BEAUMONT,
House of Lords,
April 11.

France's part in the Moroccan operation is subsidiary, since both the Moroccan and Zaireans are using their own planes to transport the troops that President Mobutu has requested. Nevertheless it is probably decisive in enabling them to become capable of halting the advance of the so-called Katangese gendarmes in Shaba—and also of shoring up the President's own power and regime. French action proclaims that the West has an interest to be defended in Zaire, which France is not prepared to let go by default. This would evidently have happened, in President Giscard d'Estaing's view, if France had refused King Hassan's request for the airlift, leaving the end of its mission.

The West's interest needs identifying. Crudely put, it lies in not allowing Zaire to go the way of Angola, or—to take another parallel—Ethiopia. The

invaders of Shaba come from President Neto's Marxist Angola, and are logistically supported by him, even if President Castro's denials that any Cubans are involved is true. The Angolans, not to mention Dr. Castro, have made it clear that they regard Zaire as a country ripe for a people's revolution against "the ruling clique".

Russia's intentions have not been made explicit, but her growing involvement in both Ethiopia and Angola tends to deepen her interests in "anti-imperialist" struggles in any nearby state. The West has been virtually eliminated from Angola and the Horn of Africa, and the question arises—in African minds as in others—whether it will make a stand anywhere, or allow a total vacuum to develop into which Russia will be sucked in the usual way.

The African states are divided over Zaire, in accordance with their ideological position. President Sadat has made his concern over any further precedents for external intervention in Africa very clear, and so has President Nimeiry of Sudan. These states, with Morocco, form a solid front, which has the advantage of being based on the Organisation of African Unity charter. The block may be decisive if Nigeria also condemns the Shaba invasion and its motives. For Nigeria's support the West must earnestly hope.

But there are risks in the situation, particularly for King Hassan. Indirectly for the West also. The only reason why the Katanga force has got as far as it has is that Zaire is weakened by maladministration, corruption, and discontent. The economy is in decline. The invaders are not secessionists invoking Tshombe's shade. They are calling on Zaireans to rise against a discredited autocrat. They are in contact, if not in collaboration,

ISRAELI LABOUR'S NEW LEADER

Mr. Yitzhak Rabin has somehow managed to salvage a certain personal dignity from what in its essence must be one of the most undignified political downfalls since Metternich left Vienna in a laundry basket. For a prime minister in office to retain the leadership of his party by a fraction of a percentage point three months before a general election was already unimpressive. For him to throw in the towel six weeks later, just as the election campaign was getting under way, because of irregularities discovered in his wife's bank account, seems downright pathetic. And a further indignity is inflicted by the Israeli law which does not allow a caretaker prime minister to leave office but condemns him to twist slowly in the air until the election is over and a new government has been formed.

None the less Mr. Rabin's abrupt but firm decision to resign the leadership of the Labour Party seems to have won the respect of many of his countrymen, and it was probably the right decision both from Mr. Rabin's personal point of view and from that of his party. The existence of Mrs. Rabin's Washington account is, unfortunately, a peccadillo by which has become the prevailing standard of Israeli public life, and it may seem very unfair that Mr. Rabin's political career should be sacrificed for it. But the harsh truth is that Mr. Rabin was politically vulnerable precisely because of much larger-scale

corruption recently discovered among other leading figures in the Labour Party, most of whom were his political associates. He had been able to survive this only because until now there was no suggestion of personal corruption on his part. Once it became known that he and his wife were keeping thousands of dollars illegally in the United States (for whatever purpose) his leadership became too great a liability for the party to carry.

Internationally, however, his resignation has certainly aroused concern—especially no doubt in Washington where he was regarded as a moderate and reasonable leader who, while not exactly a soft touch, could always be relied on to give due weight to the importance of maintaining good relations between Israel and the United States. Mr. Peres, who replaces him as Labour leader and therefore potentially as prime minister, would probably be much harder for American policy-makers to manage.

He is certainly a much more experienced politician, and his experience—as a disciple of Ben Gurion who was closely involved in the diplomacy of the 1956 Suez crisis—goes back to a period when Israeli policy was much less closely tied to the United States than it has been of late. He also has a well-established reputation as a "hawk" on territorial issues. It was his obstinacy, as much as that of the National Religious Party ministers, which made it impossible for the Government

SPAIN BREAKS A TABOO

at one time further exacerbated relations by setting up a rival pro-Moscow party in Spain. He has said that "in the west we can have socialism only if the democratic and pluralist systems are respected, and if it is based on majority consensus, with a readiness to give up power if this majority ceases to exist". He has spoken in favour of Spain joining the European Community and he is not campaigning against American bases in Spain.

None of this means that in certain circumstances the Spanish Communist Party might not take positions that further Soviet interests, for it still subscribes broadly to Soviet foreign policy, but the party is in no way directly subordinate to Moscow and its present policies are compatible with the democratic order. With luck, therefore, the Civil War will not have to be fought again. Socially, politically and economically Spain is now a different place, and the Communist Party is a different party.

the legalization of the Spanish Communist Party is important more for its symbolism than for the direct effect it is likely to have on the electoral balance in Spain. It is to be seen as a sort of peace treaty formally ending the Civil War of 1936. Although it will not entirely lay to rest the passions aroused by that war it brings Spain out from under its immediate legacy and into the community of democratic nations, thereby also providing Spain's ticket of entry into the European Community. It is a gesture of faith in the maturity of the Spanish people and a very considerable political achievement, considering how little time has passed since the death of General Franco.

The true strength of the party can now be openly tested. It was never strong in votes and is unlikely to be so now. It gained importance in the Civil War largely by being better organized than most other parties and by holding the key to Soviet military help. It maintained considerable importance under the Franco regime again

New towns

From Mrs. Alice Coleman
Sir, Surely Lord Greenwood (April 5) has misidentified the bird. It is not the goose that lays the golden eggs, but the ostrich with its head in the sand. From such a sand-clouded viewpoint it may be possible to believe in a vast expansion of British Leyland as a justification for another new town; or to believe that Kirby New Town is a shining example that it should be duplicated or to argue that because momentum has already been gathered in a given direction it should on no account be halted in the light of reappraisals.

From a more factual viewpoint we see Britain as a country that grows only half her own food in a world where food demand and food prices are rising. There are now only three countries that are net exporters of food, and the need to double our own food supply should be a realistic consideration for any responsible government. To advocate the sterilization of yet more farmland to build a new town is now completely irresponsible.

In this country there is a superfluity of dead space. Vast areas of derelict land, waste land and scrub are breaking up the inner city, and may well be the major reason why it is dying; let us bring new life

to these dying areas, and spread the building employment required throughout all our cities, instead of concentrating it into a single new town.

We have the choice. Either we use the urban wasteland and conserve farmland, or we conserve the waste land and sterilize the farmland. Lord Greenwood believes that the latter course is preferable. I cannot agree with him.

Yours faithfully,
ALICE COLEMAN (Director of the Second Land Utilisation Survey of Britain),
King's College London,
Strand WC2
April 9.

Lib-Lab electoral pact

From Lord Beaumont of Whitley
Sir, Mr. Richard Lamb's suggestion (Letters, April 11) for a modified electoral pact between the Liberal and Labour parties is retrograde, impractical and undemocratic.

It is retrograde because a situation where the Liberals hold seats by the good will of another party is debilitating and precarious. The moment when we emerged as a national party again was the moment when such pacts collapsed and few of us would want to move back.

It is impractical because it is highly unlikely that the left wing of the Labour Party, and therefore the NEC, would allow it to happen. It is undemocratic because, even under our unfair electoral system, the voters should be given a choice between Liberalism and Socialism, which are, as Mr. Lamb would be the first to state, very different animals. This is the fundamental reason why many of us have campaigned over the years—successfully—against the Liberal Party.

It is quite likely that in the short term an arrangement such as Mr. Lamb describes would be good for both the Liberal and Labour Parties. I believe that in the long term it would be bad for both of them and that in both the short and long term it would be bad for democracy.

Yours etc.
TIM BEAUMONT,
House of Lords,
April 11.

Reform of system

From Mr. David Grace
Sir, In today's edition of *The Times* (March 30), while reviewing the prospects for the Liberal Party, Geoffrey Smith questioned the motives of the five and a half million people who voted Liberal at the last general election. Why is the Liberal voter singled out for attention?

If Mr. Smith is asserting that many voters vote in ignorance of all or part of party manifestos, I must agree with him. Indeed they may vote for the colour in Mr. Callaghan's face, Mr. Thatcher's hair or Mr. Steel's tie. That is their privilege.

The function of an electoral system in a democracy is to give expression to the views of the electorate. Mr. Smith or I or anyone else may think of the basis and value of those views. The case for electoral reform rests on the proposition that the entire electorate, not merely five and a half million voters, is cheated at every election.

I have the honour to be your obedient servant,
DAVID GRACE,
114 York Street,
Cambridge,
March 30.

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I have the honour to be your obedient servant,
DAVID GRACE,
114 York Street,
Cambridge,
March 30.

Future of broadcasting

From Mr. J. A. Camacho
Sir, How refreshing to read the views of a practical practical experience. Mr. Nethercott (April 1) is manifestly right. He might have added that the exchange of staff between local stations, regional centres and London is also valuable and enriching. If what is suggested (the Annan report) is not easily obtainable in rural areas) is three tiers, respectively for national, regional and local broadcasting, each controlled by a separate and independent authority, the proposal is clearly illogical. How can an organization be truly national if it has no top-roots outside the London-Edinburgh triangle? The concept of a national broadcasting network is a dead-end bureaucratic; it is neat and tidy but woefully unrealistic.

Nor surely do we want such a proliferation of official bodies. For example, to give a separate body the task of examining complaints is to take from the BBC's Board of Governors and from the IBA one of their most important responsibilities. For they are not, or should not be, executive bodies; their primary functions should surely be to guide and instruct, to decide on important matters of policy and, above all, to represent and protect the interests of the public.

Yours faithfully,
J. A. CAMACHO,
Hemel Hempstead,
Bedfordshire,
April 4.

John Evelyn's library

From Mr. Raymond E. Maddison
Sir, Neither Mr. Latham in his letter of March 24, nor Sir Geoffrey Keynes in his interesting letter of March 25, has put forward any reason why the library of John Evelyn should be kept physically together.

No one would dispute that before its dispersal a full bibliographical catalogue of the library could, with advantage to scholars, be made.

Unless John Evelyn made manuscript notes in his books however (and no one has to date suggested that he did) it is difficult to see what purpose would be served by the library's physical preservation that could not equally be served by a catalogue.

Yours faithfully,
RAYMOND E. MADDISON,
80 Sutton Road,
Heston,
Middlesex.

Where are they?

From the Headmaster of Piccadilly School
Sir, Where are all the very bright young men and women going?

Yesterday (April 11) we were told that they are not attracted to medicine; in recent years we have been assured that they do not go into education, they do not take up careers in engineering and technology, and that there is a dearth of able students following science courses. Then where are they?

Perhaps, if we define our terms, we may find the picture is not as black as it is being painted. Yours faithfully,
K. J. FYFFE, Headmaster,
Piccadilly School,
The Oakes,
Epsom Road,
Selvedge, Kent.

Nuclear power: effect of US policy

From Mr. Richard Knox

Sir, The major setback to the American nuclear power programme resulting from the President's acquiescence to the anti-nuclear lobby by stopping the development of a commercially operating fast reactor using plutonium fuel has serious implications for the rest of the world.

Announcing his decision yesterday (April 7) the President made the remark that the United States was not dependent upon foreign suppliers for its fuel, but that he hoped other countries that were dependent upon imported fuels would follow the United States example.

In fact, due to its profligate consumption of its own fuel in the past, the United States now buys considerable quantities of fuel (both oil and nuclear) from other countries, with all that implies about the future availability and price of these fuels. In addition to its extravagant use of American-produced oil, the United States embarked on its nuclear programme by developing a type of reactor which uses refined uranium fuel more rapidly than any of the reactors being developed in other countries. But, by its speed in development and development over the choice of "standard" reactor type, it established a large overseas market for its nuclear engineering industry. The justification for this being was that the reactor fuel being developed for the next generation, the fast breeder reactor, would be plentiful, and that the United States had ample fuel enrichment capacity to deal with the needs of the American nuclear reactors throughout the world in the meantime. Now this situation will be upset if the fast breeder is delayed.

The new chairman of Britain's Electricity Council (which will now be faced with further decisions on the British fast breeder following President Carter's announcement), Frank Tombs, has summed up the situation succinctly. He said recently that we have to be clear that the future fuel supply of Britain, as of the rest of the world, rests on nuclear power. That being so, fast breeders are inevitable.

The development of fast breeders is well advanced in Britain, and there is more than a

hint that the nuclear industry in the United States would welcome a halt to fast breeder development in other countries so that it had time to reach or surpass their production capabilities.

That the President should be concerned over the spread of nuclear weapons is, of course, very proper. However, a great deal of sensible rubbish has been talked about this. At the smallest end of the scale, the threat of nuclear blackmail by terrorists is presented as a reason to avoid getting into the nuclear economy. The task of constructing a nuclear device has been greatly oversimplified by the media, with claims that a student in nuclear physics could build a bomb once he had the plutonium. The truth is that the student would have to overcome himself before finishing his work. In fact, there are far simpler, cheaper and much safer ways for terrorists to hold many people to ransom as they could with any home-made nuclear device.

More difficult is the prevention of nuclear weapon capability spreading to irresponsible countries. This is a complex problem, but basically means that by offering the necessary processing capability to foreign users, those countries which already have the weapon capability can keep some control on the situation through the Non-Proliferation Treaty. By simply withdrawing these "irresponsible" countries outside the United States will be tempted to develop such facilities for themselves. If they have the intention of producing weapons and the necessary delivery system, they probably have the means of producing their own fuel, anyway.

Of greater concern than the possible spread of nuclear weapon capability should be the growing certainty that these nuclear weapons already in existence in large quantities will be used when, at about the end of the century, the world starts to squabble over the remaining precious resources of oil, coal and uranium, and has no fast breeder to produce the only significant alternative fuel.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD KNOX,
Electrical Review International,
Dorset House,
Stamford Street, SE1,
April 8.

Crisis of steel

From Mr. Hugh Corbet

Sir, The third leader in *The Times* yesterday (April 6) reveals an inability to analyse particular economic or industrial problems in a systematic setting and, by its incoherence, represents a political attitude that should have been discarded in World War II. I would like to make three points.

First, the European Community, like all industrial countries, faces the problem of uncertain recovery from a worldwide recession. The problem can be analysed in terms of the particular problems of the steel industry, the textile industry, the automobile industry and any number of other industries. But your editorial was about steel. Taking industrial production in aggregate, steel enters into it in a fairly small proportion, certainly in the short run. How do you propose, then, to reconcile, on the one hand, the objective of helping the Community's steel industry by limiting production and the availability of steel on the European market (in order to raise its price and make it profitable) and, on the other, the objective of increasing industrial production in general? Don't these two objectives contradict one another? And, if they do, which is to have precedence?

Second, do you not see that in an interdependent system (or in, as economists say, a general equilibrium situation), the restrictive action of the officially-sponsored steel cartel cannot remain confined to steel? If the European Community's steel industry feels disrupted by imports, the appropriate action to take is through Article XXIV of GATT on which, many would agree, there is much that is constructive to be discussed and implemented.

Yours sincerely,
HUGH CORBET,
Director,
Trade Policy Research Centre,
1 Gough Square, EC4,
April 7.

Lead in ancient Rome

From Dr. N. A. F. Smith

Sir, Professor Black's contention (Letters, April 6) that we must rule out the main lines of the aqueducts as a possible cause of lead poisoning is valid for the city of Rome itself but not for other places. As I have shown in my book *Man and Water*, Roman engineers were, when it was necessary, quite capable of building "inverted siphons" in pressurised pipelines, in order to carry water supplies across river valleys or other depressions. Lead was the material commonly used for such pipes. Nearly 20 examples are known and by far the most impressive selection was constructed on the four aqueducts which supplied Lyon, perhaps as much as 10,000 tons of lead being used in this particular case. To test the theories of your correspondents the decline and fall of Lyon rather than Rome might be the more revealing case to study.

In reality, though, I suspect that the problem is more complex and obscure than Professor Black suggests. Brand new lead pipes whether in the main aqueducts or in distribution systems would be more likely to poison the water than those already well used. By degrees water conduits tend to accumulate a lining of calcareous deposits, and in some of the open channels—Nimes and Cologne for example—the incrustations are notably thick. Thus in time the risk of dysentery poisoning as such would reduce or increase.

If lead poisoning is to be seriously considered as a threat to the long term health of Roman citizens surely the problem has to be considered more broadly. At one point Strabo remarks on the need to provide lead smelters with chimneys "so that the gas from the ore may be carried high into the air, for it is heavy and deadly". Nor should river and ground water pollution be

overlooked. Not only lead but just as insidious, mercury and arsenic, were mined by the Romans and water used in these workings or seeping from them penetrated, unchecked and unsuspected, water resources used for drinking and agriculture. Also to be considered are purely domestic sources of lead: various types of lead utensils and water containers, dishes, cooking and storage pots, and a variety of food items which were rich in lead. At present the evidence is very inconclusive. More is likely to be learned I suspect from the consequences than the causes. Where it is possible examination of a sufficiently large sample of the lead content in the bones of Roman burials is the more fruitful approach now being adopted.

Yours sincerely,
NORMAN A. F. SMITH,
Department of History of Science and Technology,
Imperial College of Science and Technology, SW7.

Learning languages

From Mrs. Nora Wooster
Sir, Undoubtedly one of the greatest disadvantages faced by immigrant and many indigenous youngsters is the way they speak. In addition to the three Rs they learned Queen's English as a second language, a lot of their difficulties would be removed. There would be an added bonus in that the real riches of numberless dialects would more likely be preserved; and the fact that young children accustomed to hear and encouraged to pronounce new sounds and rhythms, would have their ability to learn to speak and understand foreign languages enhanced.

Yours faithfully,
NORA WOOSTER,
339 Cherry Hinton Road,
Cambridge.

Increasing pressure on London airports

From the Chairman of the Local Authorities Aircraft Noise Council and others

Sir, On March 31 the three local authorities bordering Heathrow airport had their last opportunity to question the British Airports Authority's plans to build a new terminal there, which by 1985 is alone intended to handle as many passengers as do the entire airports of Amsterdam or Copenhagen today. Over 50 local authorities are affected by these plans, but apart from Surrey County Council and the GLC no other authority was consulted.

For over 10 years governments have ducked responsible solutions to the airport problem, finding it expedient to yield to small rural pressure groups while ignoring the environmental needs of 2½ million people around Heathrow. There was no money for M4 yet more has been spent on superfluous prestige than M4 would have cost. Scotland and northern England still have no major international gateway, while more and more traffic is being pushed through unsuitable south-east airports.

Heathrow is a badly planned, badly sited airport. To spend £100m on a further terminal which separate access to transport links will merely add to the confusion, while the increased passenger traffic—about 38 million in 1985, compared with 22 million last year—will choke the main road and rail routes into London. The government's new proposal to transfer some services to Gatwick will relieve some of the pressure; and in practice, Gatwick could take half of Heathrow's present traffic before reaching its own capacity limit. Clearly there should be no investment at Heathrow until a sensible long-term airports strategy has been worked out.

Quite apart from the economic arguments, the government should not even consider increasing air traffic at Heathrow without first implementing a phased reduction of permitted noise levels, and the eventual banning of non-certificated aircraft, as the United States will have done by 1985.

Since the BAA's unilateral action on the subject has raised so many issues of regional and national importance, we have asked the Secretary of State for the Environment if he will set up a public enquiry. We appreciate the needs of employment and a prosperous aviation industry; but the concept of an infinitely expandable Heathrow must be dropped from the government's calculations once and for all. It will simply not be accepted by the millions whose quality of life it impairs.

Yours faithfully,
JUNE ROBINSON, Chairman,
Local Authorities Aircraft Noise Council,
EVELYN ATLEE, Chairman,
Federation of Heathrow Anti-Noise Groups,
ANGUS MCGEOCH, Chairman,
Heathrow Association for the Control of Aircraft Noise,
April 7.

From Mr. W. H. C. Bailey
Sir, One cannot help viewing with horror the euphoric attitude of the British Airports Authority in their desire to push several million more passengers per annum through Gatwick under existing facilities. Notwithstanding the £70m on "redeveloping costs".

For international/continental flights there is only one departure area; there is only one arrival area. It is necessary to pass through the departure area to get to the arrival area. I was there last Saturday afternoon (April 2) and there was extreme congestion—to put it mildly—of people departing, people seeing them off, people arriving and people meeting them. This with only two arrivals in the same half hour.

On top of this, the baggage handling—through no fault of the handlers—any standards, must be as good as anywhere in the world. It took the people I was meeting 65 minutes to get their baggage after landing and I am told that the general average at Gatwick is 42 minutes.

Clearly there is a desperate need for a third London airport. Yours faithfully,
W. H. C. BAILEY,
Woodlands Lane,
Haslemere,
Surrey,
April 6.

From Mr. Neville Goldrein
Sir, When considering the expansion of Gatwick Airport the Government persists in the assumption, so general of disregarding the north of England. It is clear that we appreciate that Gatwick Airport by road from the north is almost inaccessible, involving as it does crossing or endeavouring to skirt London.

Yours faithfully,
NEVILLE GOLDREIN,
Lloyds Bank Building,
11-13 Victoria Street,
Liverpool,
April 6.

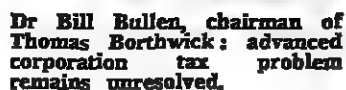
Fragile eggshells

From Major A. E. Sturdy
Sir, I cannot entirely agree with the findings of the scientists, reported in the front page of *Saturday Times* (April 2) that the shells of eggs laid by factory bred hens are not inferior to those of their free range sisters. I sometimes find that the former crumble between the fingers even before baking. I contend that they are inferior because the layers receive no grit in their diet, whereas the grit picked up by free range hens is generally supplemented by ground oyster shells.

Incidentally, it is only in old age that I have at last discovered that the tops of boiled eggs should be sliced off at the thin end, to avoid spoiling the yolk. A difference of opinion on this subject was, if I remember correctly, the cause of the war in Thackeray's *The Rector and the Ring*, the delight of which is, I fear, unknown to modern generations of science fiction fed children.

Yours faithfully,
A. E. STURDY,
68 Holland Park, W11,
April 2.

Defusing the gilt market



Borthwick's miscalculation

It looks as though Borthwick completely misunderstood the Trust's entrenched position. Even when the Trust only held

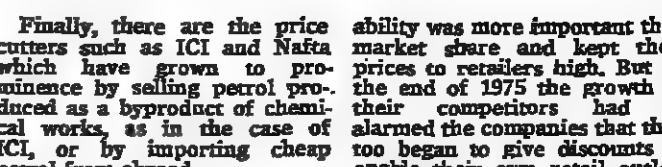
The banks have put forward a vigorous case for inclusion of allowances for monetary items in the main body of the profit and loss account, and they have won broad backing from within the accountancy profession. The main obstacle lies in Whitehall, which is backing the general

Radical thinking

Given that the takeover has in any case reduced the overall capitalization of the investment trust sector by some £40m, such an inflow of funds should in theory have some impact on the discounts at which the shares of other investment trusts are standing to their net asset value.

Behind them is a second tier of international groups such as Total, Elf, Fina, Amoco, Gulf and Jet, who are relative newcomers to the market and with a few exceptions tend to concentrate their operations in the large conurbations.

The scramble for the motorists' custom at the petrol pumps



and the second-tier companies where the competition was strong. Such a move would reduce the unit costs of the big companies. Throughout part of 1977 and the first half of 1978, the major companies saw the second tier and price cutters whittle away their market share. The big companies took the view that profit-

The oil companies see this cycle continuing until a balance is reached and this is unlikely to happen much before 1980, always providing that new refineries do not open in the meantime. And as long as there is a surplus of petrol in Europe, bargain priced fuel will be available in the United Kingdom.

Roger Vielvoxe

Patricia Tisdall

Underwriting the air package holidaymaker


On top of this the bonds or guarantees which formed the basis of the earlier system continue to lock away an estimated £50m to £60m worth of industry assets each year. As well as having to bear the direct cost through insurance charges or lost interest, (depending on how the secur-

In theory, no other protection should be needed. But as

The report of its first year operation published in February by the Air Travel Reserve Fund Agency and subsequent parliamentary statements show that the fund could be expected to grow by

Annual General Meeting of the Members
Glasgow, G3 5NQ on Wednesday, 1st June 1995
By order of the Directors
W. PROUDFOOT
General Manager and Actuary
150 St. Vincent Street Glasgow G2 7JL

will be held at 150 St. Vincent Street,
April 1977 at 3.00 p.m.



SCOTTISH AMICABLE

LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the One Hundred and Fifty-first Annual General Meeting of the Members will be held at 150 St. Vincent Street, Glasgow, G2 5NQ on Wednesday, 13th April 1977 at 3.00 p.m.

By order of the Directors
W. PROUDFOOT
General Manager and Actuary

150 St. Vincent Street Glasgow G2 5NQ, 11th March 1977.

Business Diary: Washington's banker poets

Imagination, daring, vigour and
verve

misgivings like these are absurd.

Where are they now?

An occasional series in which tabs are kept on names that once made the news. . . .

Today, his selling activities are largely ambassadorial, selling the image rather than the product. But that (plus a directorship of the National Westminster Bank) would not be enough to absorb his still remarkable energy.



accepted the chairmanship of the British Arabian Advisory Company, which is jointly financed by the National Research Development Corporation and the Saudi Arabian Investment Company.

Any unsuspecting visitor who finds himself stranded because of the Finnair stoppage should




PROVIDENT
FINANCIAL GROUP

Chelmer, Chairman

	1976	1975
Group profit	£7,295,000	£4,584,000
Ordinary Dividend	4.3631p per share	3.9665p per share
Turnover	£152,235,000	£137,104,000

Copies of the Report & Accounts & the Chairman's statement may be obtained from the Secretary

 Principal operating companies:
Provident Personal Credit Limited, The People's Bank Limited, Paybonds Limited,
Practical Credit Services, Provident Management Services Limited.
Provident Financial Group Limited.
Head Office: Colonnade, Bradford BD1 2LQ,
West Yorkshire.

Chelmer, Chairman

مكرامه الاصل

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Restrictions on the workings of ACAS

Mr P. M. Elton
In Mr Mortimer's letter of 4 March, he stresses the importance of the independence of ACAS. However, what he does not go on to explain are the restrictions which are placed on ACAS in its role.

Section 1 (2) of the Employment Protection Act, which is the section of the Act setting up ACAS, says "The service shall be charged with the general duty of promoting the improvement of industrial relations, and in particular of encouraging the extension of collective bargaining and the development of... collective bargaining machinery."

Therefore, any employer involved in any trade union recognition dispute in which ACAS becomes involved, could hardly expect to receive advice other than that calculated to encourage the extension of collective bargaining. After all, that is what Parliament has asked them to do!

Yours faithfully,
P. M. ELTON
Group Industrial Relations Manager,
The Calor Group Limited,
Calor House,
Windsor Road,
Slough, SL1 2EQ,
April 5.

From Mr Paul Nicholson
Sir, Mr J. S. Mortimer (April 4), chairman of ACAS, states that ACAS is not a government department but an independent organization created to help employers and unions in their industrial relations difficulties.

Schedule 1 of the Employment Protection Act 1975 states that "the functions of

The 12% surge of inflation

From Mr R. C. Bainbridge
Sir, Yesterday the Government published a new Bill to revalue prices after current legislation expires on July 31. My bill for water rates 1977-78 arrived yesterday and for the 5th year running the amount has been increased, this time by 12% per cent.

A hand printed note from the divisional manager of the Thames Water Authority informs me that "the increase is broadly consistent with and is accounted for by the trend of cost inflation since the present

Index-linked quasi-state pensions

From Mr E. T. C. Vincent
Sir, Now that the indexing of Civil Service pensions is being re-examined, it would be instructive to know which quasi-government organizations have thought it necessary to index the pensions of their employees, and by how much their prices or charges

have been increased in consequence.

Can the facts be ascertained and made public?

Yours faithfully,
E. T. C. VINCENT,
21 Ruden Way,
Epsom Downs,
Surrey KT17 3LL,
April 4.

Nube and staff associations in clearing banks

From Mr Wilfred Aspinall
Sir, With reference to the article by Christopher Thomas on April 5, relating to Nube seeking employee directors in banks, I feel that comment must be made by my union.

The Council of Bank Staff Associations is the majority trade union representing the staff in the English clearing banks; our members total 85,000, whereas Nube can only claim 57,000 members in the same sector. It is therefore quite inexcusable that Mr Mills can make his statement in your newspaper insinuating that the banking industry has been bedevilled by divided staff representation and that there is a problem with the staff associations—by dint of membership it is the other way around.

Referring to the criteria of independence, Mr Mills is living in "cuckoo land". If he thinks the union the state of CBSA can be debased from receiving a certificate of independence under the Employment Protection Act, Nube may be critical, but this is an attempt to try and save its finances and reducing membership. In this it will fail.

On the subject of employee directors, the staff associations are debating implementation plans at their coming conferences. The CBSA has already stated that we are in favour of employee directors, but wish to see a structure developing from the grass roots membership and not a system which allows trade unions the power to exert nomination undemocratically.

Yours faithfully,
WILFRED ASPINALL,
General Secretary,
Council of Bank Staff Associations,
21 John Street,
London, WCL,
April 5.

Unwanted news

From Mr R. F. D. Reed
Sir, With my latest telephone bill I have received two copies of the new publication Telephone News. The GPO tells us that the cost is just over 1p per customer.

The action of the GPO is akin to that of senders of unsolicited goods who then attempt to extort charges.

I have returned their news leaflet and deducted 2p off my bill. Customers who see lower telephone bills, not higher ones due to unsolicited activities.

Yours faithfully,
R. F. D. REED,
30 Chelsea Towers,
Chelsea Manor Gardens,
London, SW3 5PN,
April 1.

FINANCIAL NEWS

Government's change of heart cheers Property Federation

By John Brennan
A note of cautious optimism has been creeping into statements by the British Property Federation lately. The Federation's usually doom-laden writings about Government hostility towards the industry have mellowed, in line with the Government's more receptive approach to criticism of its property legislation. In his statement accompanying the Federation's 1976 report Sir Richard Thompson, who retired as President at the annual meeting on May 3, sees signs of a revival in the industry's fortunes.

Sir Richard writes that "at the start of 1976 there were good grounds for thinking that the property industry, having survived the worst effects of the collapse of 1974-5 was set for a slow but steady improvement. Our major cause for

satisfaction was the clear recognition by the Government earlier in 1975 that control of commercial rents was a policy fraught with disaster and that... no matter how unpopular property industry might still be in official circles, a healthy property market was vitally important to the economy of the nation". Sir Richard notes that in the event the effects of inflation and the "staggering" increase in interest rates "combined to exacerbate all the problems which the industry had seemed to be getting under control".

Sir Richard does, however, see a marked improvement in the economic climate in recent months, and he echoes the industry-wide feeling that "a fresh start is in prospect, and that it is officially recognized that the private landlord has a positive contribution to

Man Garages starts in good style

The first two months at Manchester Garages have brought better profits than a year ago, but R. A. Stoodley, the chairman, says that the results for the rest of the year may prove to be more difficult than the trading point of view. However, this Ford main dealer is used to such conditions and should be well equipped to deal with marketing problems which may occur in the short term.

Given that the benefits of North Sea oil are reflected in the spending power of the consumer, the group should have an "excellent future profit potential".

Lorho-Suits

At the request of Scottish & Universal Investments, the Takeover Panel has reviewed the circumstances of the recent sale to Lorho of 746 million shares in Suits at 95p each—24 per cent of the equity—by Sir Hugh Fraser, his family and family trusts. The panel has concluded that no obligation under the code to extend an offer for the balance on the same terms arises from the transaction.

Provident Financial

Lord Chelmer, chairman of Provident Financial Group, said that should the Chancellor's tax proposals become part of the Finance Act, 1977, the company should be able to increase its total ordinary dividend for 1976 by a further 0.088p share, without contravening the restraint guidelines.

The board will consider paying

Vosper may look abroad after 'N-day'

Now that the nationalization of part of the group's business is certain, Sir David Brown, chairman of Vosper Thornycroft, hints that the group's future may well be mainly overseas. His annual report says that it may build up its interests in Singapore, and on the Continent, but until the board has the amount and timing of compensation which the group will be receiving from the Government, it is extremely difficult to make any firm plans.

J Compton, Sons

Turnover of J. Compton, Sons and Webb (Holdings) fell last year, from £19.75m to £19.13m. However, profits before tax went up from £2.23m to £2.38m. The 1975 profit was after charging sums of £163,000, while there were no similar charges on 1976's profits. The gross profit rose from 2.36p to 2.6p, earnings per share climbed from 5.78p to 6.94p.

E Upton tumbles

In the year to January 25 turnover of E. Upton & Sons rose from £4.29m to £4.51m, but profits fell from £73,000 to £25,000. Profits include a special credit of £23,000 on the sale of property. The dividend is held at 3.46p gross. Upton operates department stores and retail shops.

Rockware deal

Rockware Group has purchased Salsco Plastics, a plastics container maker based in Norwich. The consideration of £515,000 has been satisfied by the payment of £382,000 in cash and by the issue of 140,000 ordinary shares of Rockware credited fully paid. The new ordinary shares being issued will receive the recommended final dividend to be paid for the year to January 2.

Deal delayed at Globe & Phoenix

Mr Fraser Bird, chairman of both Globe and Phoenix Gold Mining and Phoenix Mining and Finance, says that the reorganization is designed to "avoid the risk of the whole group being swept into the nationalization net". Also, the group's name is to revert to Vosper Ltd.

Business appointments

Esso chief to head UK advice panel

Dr A. W. Pearce has been made chairman of the United Kingdom Petroleum Industry Advisory Committee. He is also chairman and chief executive of Esso Petroleum. Following the retirement of Mr C. F. Hingston and Mr F. S. Allen, Mr E. J. Gordon Henry has become a director and chairman of the board of Esso Petroleum. Mr E. J. Gordon Henry has been made a director and chairman of the board of Esso Petroleum. Mr E. J. Gordon Henry has been made a director and chairman of the board of Esso Petroleum.

Babcock, RTZ, Assoc Biscuits and Glynwed

TODAY
Interim: Equity Income Tst. Finals: Channel Islands International Inv Tst, Cohen Bros (Elect), John Finlan and Taylor Pallister.

WEDNESDAY
Interim: Burdend Inv, North Atlantic Sea Corp, and Wade Poteries. Finals: A. G. Stanley Hlgs, Armage Bros, Babcock & Wilcox, Blackwood Hodge, Horace Corp, J. J. Dewar, Dickinson-Robinson, Edinburgh Inv Tst, Farm Feed Hlgs, E. Fogarty, Glynwed, Great Northern Telegraph, Henry Boot & Sons, J. Jerome and Sons, London & Provincial Power, Modern Engineers of Bristol (Hlgs), Watts Blake Bearn, Weeks Associates and Wilmot Breden.

THURSDAY
Interim: Dowding & Mills, Wm Jacks, M. P. Kent, Linread, Pahang Consolidated, Photo-Me

Brittain's turnover up but dividend is cut

Turnover for 1976 of Brittain's, fine papermakers, rose slightly from £23.1m to £27.2m. But pre-tax profit dropped from £780,000 to £417,000 and the final dividend is cut from 0.45p to 0.41p. Sir J. H. Brittain, chairman, states that the recession in 1975 persisted for most of 1976. Extraordinary items included close costs and redundancies amounting to £314,000.

ALCAN AUSTRALIA

Board issuing \$25m of 8% per cent bonds 1989 at a price of 100% per cent. Bonds have been placed with a syndicate managed by Swiss Bank Corp.

THURGOOD BARDE

Chairman says that first quarter's trading in 1977 confirms continued improvement in sales and profits, which have resulted from re-equipment. He expects a "substantially" improved first half-year.

H. CARTWRIGHT

Chairman says that increased momentum has been maintained in early months of current year, and now, a group is under pressure to keep up with demand.

EAT GROUP

Group has acquired a chain of specialist glasses and food businesses in London and the Home Counties for about £100,000 cash.

MARTIN FORD

Chairman says turnover levels for first quarter of current year have shown substantial increases, which will help company to achieve a "marked improvement" in results for the year.

SIDLAW INDUSTRIES

Board and Scott and Robertson have agreed to sell the Hull factory of G. C. Taylor and Sons (Sidlau), for £25,000.

G. INGRAM AND CO (HLDS)

Turnover £1.25m (£527,000) for 1976.

Results this week

Int'l and Smith Inds. Finals: Alva Inv Tst, Assoc Biscuit, Beauford Grp, Bourne & Hollingsworth, Bowthorpe, Carpins International, Charonese (F&S), Estates, Croda Int, General & Commercial Inv Tst, Greens Economist, Hewden Stuart, Lafarge Organ, Lec Refrigeration, London Pavilion, Matthews Wrightson Hlgs, Owen Owen, Portals, RTZ Corp, Stag Furniture Hlgs and Supra Grp.

FRIDAY

Interim: Coronation Syndicate, Kwik Save, MTD (Mangula), and Tweekfontein United Collieries. Finals: Brown Boveri Kent, Geo Kent, Lowland Inv, Morgan Crucible, and Senior Eng.

1976. Pre-tax loss £23,000 (loss £3,000). Earnings a share, 0.14p (0.17p) and dividend 0.95p gross (0.58p).

W. N. SHARPE

Chairman, in his annual statement, says that current year's trading has begun very well with order books of both parent and subsidiaries at much more satisfactory levels than a year ago. Prospects for 1977 are good.

Briefly

WATMOUGH (HLDS)

Reinvestment benefits are coming through, and further period of sustained growth is seen by joint chairman.

LEONARD FAIRCLOUGH

Group has entered 1977 with a good work load in UK at prices to which it can work. Careful cash conservation continues.

GEORGE SPENCER GP

All companies started current year well, and first quarter sales show a satisfactory increase. Continued good trading is looked for.

DONALD MACPHERSON

Chairman told annual meeting shareholders can expect a further increase in profits and earnings a share in current year.

KENT (FMS) TIN

Revenue from tin ore sales for 1976, £1.08m (£1.11m). Pre-tax profit up from £106,000 to £183,000.

TOMATIN DISTILLERS

Board expects current year's profits to be higher than previous year.

BATU MATANG

Bid from LVC Securities extended until April 15. LVC has nearly 35 per cent of votes.

Church

(Manufacturers and retailers of quality shoes)

1977 has started well and we look forward to another good year

reports Ian B Church, chairman

For the year to 31 December 1976 sales rose 22.7% and pretax profits 51.9% to record levels.

A Jones and Sons—the main retail company—exceeded £1 million profits for the first time.

Exports rose 50% to £2.97 million. In US and Europe business continued to show good growth.

Comparative results

	1976	1975
Sales	£18.85m	£13.77m
Pretax profit	£1.96m	£1.29m
Earnings per share	20.5p	13.4p
Dividend per share	3.02p	2.75p

Copies of the Report and Accounts can be obtained from the Secretary, Church & Co Ltd, 51, James, Northampton NN1 5JS

Jardine Japan Investment Trust Limited

Points from the Statement of the Chairman, Mr. Henry Keswick

Net revenue for the year to 31st December 1976, after provision for taxation, amounted to £71,280 (£74,712 for 1975) and a dividend of 0.70p per share (0.55p plus a special distribution of 0.25p for 1974) is being recommended.

The revival of the Japanese stock market continued strongly into 1976 supported by a steep recovery in corporate profits and liquidity and the Tokyo Stock Exchange First Section Index rose by 19% to 383.9. In sterling terms, the Company's net asset value per share increased by 40.7% from 136p to 190p. This improvement is, however, not directly comparable with the index movement since the Company benefited from the impact of the appreciation of the Yen against sterling upon assets financed through the investment currency premium, although this gain was partially offset by a considerable fall in the premium itself.

Nevertheless, as in 1975, the Company managed to outperform the index having remained fully invested throughout most of the year in a wide range of companies with good prospects for earnings growth. Despite a less encouraging outlook for corporate profits, the Board consider that selective investment should continue to be rewarded as the merits of growth stocks become more widely appreciated within Japan. In the longer term, we have no reason to alter our consistently held view that real growth in Japan, whilst rather slower than hitherto, will remain well above average compared to other developed industrial countries and that investment there will continue to be attractive to Shareholders.

Copies of the Report and Accounts are available from The Secretary of the Company at 3 Lombard Street, London, EC3N 3AA.

Mr K. F. B. Packer has been appointed to the board of Trident Television.

Mr A. Bartow Farr, vice-president and secretary of IBM World Trade Corporation-Europe, Middle East and Africa, and vice-president and general manager of IBM Europe, will resign these posts on June 1 to become vice-president and general counsel of the Singer Company.

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SCOTTISH PROVIDENT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the 139th Annual General Meeting of the members of the Scottish Provident Institution will be held at the Head Office, 6 St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh, EH2 2YA on Tuesday, the 26th day of April 1977 at 2.15 p.m. to consider ordinary business and also to consider and, if thought fit, to pass Special Resolutions for the alteration of the Regulations of the Institution.

NOTICE IS ALSO HEREBY GIVEN that, if the Special Resolutions are passed by the requisite majority at the said Meeting, an Extraordinary General Meeting of the members of the Institution will be held at the Head Office on Tuesday, the 24th day of May 1977 at 2.30 p.m. to consider and, if thought fit, to confirm the said Special Resolutions.

The general purport of the proposed alterations to the Regulations is given in the Notes appended hereto.

A copy of the proposed alterations can be inspected by any member at the Head Office or a copy will be given to any member on request.

Copies of the Report and Accounts are available from this address.

By Order of the Board
J. M. MACHARG
General Manager and Actuary

6 St. Andrew Square,
Edinburgh, EH2 2YA
12th April 1977

NOTES

- To reduce the quorum for general meetings from 21 members present in person to 10 members present in person.
- To enable members to vote at general meetings not only in person (as at present) but also, on a poll, by proxy.
- To alter Regulation 30 so that the calling of a general meeting shall be in the week ending 15 clear days before the meeting and in the previous week instead of in the week ending on the day before the meeting and in the previous week.
- To add a new Regulation providing that no person (other than a retiring director or a person recommended by the directors) shall be eligible for election as a director at any annual general meeting unless due notice of his name, as stated, shall be given to the Secretary together with a written consent by the person; and providing an age limit of 70 years for directors other than certain existing directors.
- To improve the wording of Regulation 47(2) relating to the fact by a general meeting of the remuneration of the directors.
- To add to Regulation 47(3) a provision enabling the expenses of a director in attending meetings or incurred in the business of the Institution to be paid (apart from remuneration for extra services as at present).

Europa

Proportion of unemployed women is increasing

In the 12 months to February this year the number of unemployed women and girls in the nine EEC countries increased by 250,000, while the number of unemployed males fell by 64,000.

In other respects there are big differences between the countries. The proportion of females among the unemployed varies from about a quarter in the United Kingdom to more than half in France. Total unemployment fell in Germany and Holland, yet rose elsewhere. But in every country, according to EEC figures, the proportion of unemployed women rose.

The present proportion of 39 per cent females in the Community's unemployed, compared with 36 per cent a year ago, is the highest since the recession began. It has grown from about 33 per cent in February, 1974, but this year's leap is the biggest yet.

Women appear to be slower to feel the effects of a recession, but also slower to benefit when the tide turns. Probably a main reason for this is that in the services, where employment is less quickly sensitive to economic change than in production industries. The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) have recently published a survey covering 16 countries (The 1974-1975 Recession and the Employment of Women) which suggests that their employment opportunities were less seriously affected than those of men during the first part of the recession.

The authors of the study found that there was a decline

COMPARISON OF MALE AND FEMALE UNEMPLOYMENT

Country	Sex	Numbers, 1 Feb. 1977 (Thousands)	Increase or decrease in year (Thousands)	Percentage unemployed, Feb. 1976	Percentage unemployed, Feb. 1977
Germany	Males	678.3	-134.3	60	57
	Females	537.4	+1.3	40	43
France	Males	494.7	+7.1	50	47
	Females	580.3	80.0	50	53
Italy	Males	806.9	+38.0	83	82
	Females	493.5	+45.5	57	58
UK	Males	1,055.5	+40.9	78	74
	Females	386.3	+78.5	22	26
EEC	Males	3,514	-64	64	61
	Females	2,288	+250	36	39

In the number of men employed in 12 of the countries, while women's employment declined in only five. In Austria, Italy, Norway, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States, women's employment increased well into 1975 while in the other countries, except for France and Japan, the fall in the employment of women was less than that for men.

Simultaneous maintenance of employment and increase in unemployment shows that more women were coming into the labour force. The long-term trend is for the number of women workers to grow and the trend was not halted in the early part of the recession.

There may have been other causes. The pressure of inflation drives more married women to seek work in an attempt to maintain the family standard of living and, while equal pay and anti-discrimination measures have made female labour less cheap than

it was, it still costs a lot less than that of men.

But as time went on, many of those who came back must have lost their jobs under the last-in, first-out principle, while employers would hold on to trained and experienced men for as long as they could. And, as the beginnings of recovery begin to show themselves, production industries are quick to rebuild their male labour forces. An example of this is the dramatic fall in male unemployment in Germany in the past year. There has been a similar fall, on a smaller scale, in Holland.

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

\$4,870m bond issues peak in first quarter

The 14-year-old Eurobond market appears to be undergoing a structural change that could lead to further growth and diversity among borrowers, analysts say, reports AP-Dow Jones.

In the first quarter new Eurobond issue volume reached a record \$4,870m, compared with \$3,000m in the fourth 1976 quarter and \$3,700m in the first 1976 quarter. Undoubtedly there were many reasons for the first quarter boom.

Interest rates were low, at least in relation to the past few years, so borrowing was encouraged. Several governments continued to encourage Eurobond issues as a way of obtaining balance-of-payments finance. But perhaps the most significant development was participation of commercial banks as borrowers.

Euromarkets

Indeed, including both fixed and floating-rate Eurobond issues, banks accounted for \$875m or about 18 per cent of the amount floated in the first quarter.

While banks could have several motives for floating bond issues, an important consideration is the need to match medium-term bank lending with medium-term sources of funds.

"I think medium-term lending is an area that will expand much more rapidly than the traditional areas of bank lending," Herr Juergen Pont, managing director of Dresdner Bank, states. "For this reason you will see a great deal more bank issues in the Eurobond market," he says.

Dresdner Bank has announced plans to float DM350m six-year convertible notes bearing 5.25 per cent through its Luxembourg subsidiary, CIE Luxembourg.

In addition, both Deutsche Bank and Union Bank of Switzerland have disclosed similar plans for equity-linked Eurobond issues of around \$125m each.

Herr Pont said he thought these convertible issues represented just the beginning of a trend toward equity-linked Eurobond issues by banks. "It's just the tip of the iceberg," he said.

In the week's Eurobond activity, most of the large volume of new issues appeared to be well oversubscribed. However, not all of the issues fared well in aftermarket trading, suggesting that some of the paper got into loose hands.

The biggest success of last week was a \$100m 10-year issue of Ontario Hydro bearing 8.0 per cent fell to a discount in the aftermarket. The issue, which was increased from \$100m, was priced at 100.5 and yielded 7.95 per cent on 8.0 basis.

In contrast, a \$125m 10-year issue of Bell Canada, though the issue was increased in size by \$25m and the coupon cut a quarter point, the issue was very firm in aftermarket, trading at 99.5-100 compared with the offering price of par.

Among other offerings during the week was a \$30m seven-year note issue of Privatbanke.

More share prices

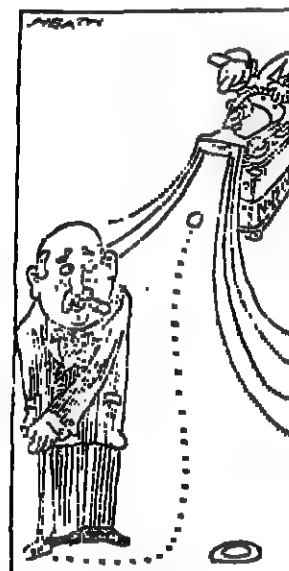
The following will be added to the London and Regional Share Price List tomorrow and will be published daily in Business News:

Investment Trust
Tribune Inv. Trust.

Bank Base Rates

Barclays Bank	9 1/2
Consolidated Credits	9 1/2
First London Secs	9 1/2
C. Moore & Co.	9 1/2
Lloyds Bank	9 1/2
Midland Bank	9 1/2
Nat Westminister	9 1/2
Roxminister Acc's	9 1/2
Shenley Trust	14 1/2
Williams & Glyn's	9 1/2

7-day deposits on sums of £10,000 and under, 6 1/2, up to £25,000, 6 3/4, over £25,000, 6 1/2.



Nilisk
the world's largest manufacturer of industrial vacuum cleaners

M. J. R. NIGHTINGALE & CO. LIMITED
52-53 Threadneedle Street, London EC2R 8EP. Tel: 01-638 8651

Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
1,750 Airsprung Ord	35	-	4.2	12.0
300 Airsprung 18 1/2 CULS	120	-	18.5	15.4
750 Armitage & Rhodes	110	-	3.0	10.0
1,490 Deborah Ord	111	+2	8.2	7.4
250 Deborah 17 1/2 CULS	125	-	17.5	14.0
17,335 Frederick Parker	120	-	12.5	9.6
4,592 Henry Sykes	55	-	2.4	4.4
11,179 James Burroughs	81	-	6.0	7.4
2,448 Robert Jenkins	240	+4	25.0	10.4
3,205 Twinkl Ord	15	-	12.0	19.7
1,634 Twinkl 12 1/2 ULS	55	+1	6.1	11.1
2,394 Unilock Holdings	77	-	5.8	7.5
4,864 Walter Alexander	77	-	5.8	7.5

Now London to Cape Town non-stop

Saturdays at 20.15.
Is SAA's flight to Cape Town. It's the only non-stop to Cape Town.
Flying the route are the new Special Performance 747 jumbos unique to the run.
SAA now flies eight times a week out of Heathrow including the fastest flight to Jo'burg.
All connect with flights to 11 destinations on SAA's exclusive domestic network.

Comfort all the way
SAA
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South African Airways, 251/9 Regent Street, London W1B 1AD. Phone 01-754 9841.
Waterloo Street, Birmingham, 021-619 5065. Hope Street, Glasgow, 041-221 5352.
Peter Street, Manchester, 061-834 1436.

New blood to fuel Booker

By Adrienne Gleason
Most of the "substantial increase" in profits for which Booker McConnell is looking this year will come from the food distribution division—which contributed £4.77m to last year's £15.93m trading profits, and which has roughly doubled in size following the acquisition of Kinloch (Provision Merchants), in January.

But in addition the general engineering division, which went into the red by more than £1m at the trading level last year because of the "lamentable loss" made by one subsidiary on overseas contracts, is expected to turn round this time.

And there should be a "significant" contribution to the profits of this division from last year's acquisition, Central Wagon—although the chairman, Sir George Bishop, says in his annual report that the group is still faced with the task of overcoming the difficulties confronting this business to secure from it a proper profit contribution.

With shareholders' funds only marginally ahead at £51.76m, the balance sheet shows the effects of nationalisation of the Guyana sugar interests early in last year—the reserves were written down by £5.59m and there was in addition £1.76m charged as an extraordinary item to the profit and loss account. The estimated amount realizable on eventual liquidation of the Guyanese companies and maturity of the government notes with which the company was compensated is put at £19.93m.

Nevertheless, reflecting seasonal buoyancy in the liquidity of the increasingly important food distribution division, the year-end balance sheet looks remarkably healthy, with total net borrowings down from £10.27m to £5.39m, despite the inclusion of some £4.5m in Central Wagon borrowings on the consolidation of that company.

Capital commitments totalling £22.5m take in some £12m paid on the acquisition of Kinloch after the year-end.

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A black and white photograph of a bottle of Highland Dry Scotch Whisky. The bottle is dark with a light-colored label. The label features the words "HIGHLAND DRY" in a bold, serif font. Below this, there is a smaller, ornate crest or logo. The bottle is shown from a slightly low angle, emphasizing its shape.

(Current market price multiplied by the number of shares in issue for the stock quoted)

[illegible]

1976	171.85	(85.05.76)	115.83	(27.10.76)
1975	156.92	(19.11.75)	61.42	(06.01.75)
1974	136.18	(28.02.74)	60.18	(12.12.74)
1973	169.33	(12.02.73)	120.96	(14.12.73)
1972	198.47	(15.08.72)	174.48	(10.01.72)



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logue (49 plates, including 3 in colour) £2.10.

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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13 at 2 p.m.
English and Continental Pictures.

THURSDAY, APRIL 14 at 2 p.m.
Ceramics and Works of Art.

FRIDAY, APRIL 15 at 10.30 a.m.
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MONDAY, APRIL 18 at 10.30 a.m.
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MONDAY, APRIL 18 at 2 p.m.
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